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[No. 17 of 1905.]

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 29th April 1905.

CONTENTS.

<i>Page.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.	
The Christian Powers and Islam ...	411
Turkey in Europe ...	ib.
Effects of Japanese victory in the East ...	ib.
The Anglo-Japanese treaty ...	ib.
The Kabul Mission ...	ib.
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.	
(a)— <i>Police</i> —	
Complaints regarding the <i>Sivachaturdasi mela</i> at Sitakund ...	411
A case of murder in Sandwip ...	ib.
A complaint ...	412
Fire in Chittagong town ...	ib.
A case of theft in Chittagong town ...	ib.
Theft in Chittagong ...	ib.
Three murder cases in the Rangpur district ...	ib.
<i>Budmashes</i> in the suburbs of Calcutta ...	ib.
<i>Sannyasis</i> in Chittagong ...	ib.
Thefts in Khulna ...	ib.
The Police Commissioner of Calcutta ...	ib.
Dacoits in the Burdwan district ...	413
A criminal case against a European constable at Raniganj ...	ib.
Thefts in the Dacca district ...	ib.
A suggestion in connexion with the new scheme of chaukidari reform ...	ib.
An allegation against the police in connexion with the late Town Hall protest meeting ...	ib.
(b)— <i>Working of the Courts</i> —	
A case of suspicious death in Chittagong ...	413
Disposal of abduction cases in the Rangpur district ...	414
The case of Ram Kumar Gope ...	ib.
A case before the Subdivisional Officer of Raniganj ...	ib.
Relations between Divisional Commissioners and District Judges ...	ib.
Rumoured change in the status of District Judges ...	415
An action of the Subdivisional Officer of Jamalpur in Mymensingh ...	ib.
The Jhansi case ...	ib.
The Chakarpur assault case ...	ib.
Mr. Tahal Ram in the Police Court ...	ib.
The prohibition of Mr. Tahal Ram from delivering lectures in the College Square ...	ib.
A contradiction ...	ib.
Allegations against a Munsif of Khulna ...	416
Gati Mandal of Murshidabad and the local Magistrate ...	ib.
The Magistrate and Deputy Magistrate of Hooghly ...	ib.
(c)— <i>Jails</i> —	
Nil.	Nil.
(d)—<i>Education</i>—	
The Chittagong Collegiate School ...	416
Mr. Pedler's leave ...	ib.
The Assam Education Department ...	417
Hygiene for village <i>pethas</i> in Bengal ...	ib.
Complaints about an examination ...	ib.
Mr. Pedler's Admission Rules ...	418
The hostel for Sanskrit College students at Colntolla ...	ib.
Selection of text-books for schools in Bengal ...	ib.
The Government School of Art and Mr. Havell ...	419
The Government School of Art, Calcutta ...	ib.
(e)—<i>Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration</i>—	
A suggestion for the prevention of the plague ...	420
Suggested extermination of rats ...	ib.
Government's plague policy ...	ib.
Water-scarcity in Faridpur ...	421
The water-scarcity question ...	ib.
The question of the purification of drinking water in the mafassal ...	ib.
The restrictions on the free use of water in Calcutta ...	ib.
Apprehended water-scarcity in some villages of the Howrah district ...	ib.
Municipal assessment in some villages of the Bhatpara Municipality ...	ib.
Water-scarcity in the 24-Parganas district ...	ib.
Sanitation in the suburbs of Calcutta ...	ib.
A complaint against the Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality ...	422
The Bagan pound in Howrah ...	ib.
Allegations against the Santipur Municipality ...	ib.
(f)—<i>Questions affecting the land</i>—	
Nil.	Nil.
(g)—<i>Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation</i>—	
A railway complaint ...	422
Allegations against the Station-master of Bagnan, Bengal-Nagpur-Railway ...	ib.
A railway complaint ...	ib.
A railway complaint ...	ib.
The new timing of trains on the East Indian Railway ...	ib.

Page.	Page.
(A)—General—	
Suggested names for two vacant Honorary Magistracies in Noakhali ...	423
Income-tax assessment in Rangpur ...	ib.
A postal complaint ...	ib.
Grievances of postal employés ...	ib.
The Press and the Government ...	ib.
Criticism of the native papers in the Bengal Administration Report ...	ib.
The Local Government and the Indian Press ...	424
Mr. Carey ...	ib.
Dr. Booth's successor ...	425
The Survey Department ...	ib.
Government as an authority on questions of descent	ib.
Dishonesty in the Government Treasury in Chittagong ...	ib.
Mr. W. G. Shout, a Deputy Magistrate of Hooghly ...	ib.
The Delhi Darbar Memorial Garden ...	ib.
The residence of the Members of the Revenue Board in Darjeeling ...	ib.
Allegations against an employé of the Court of Wards in Satkhira in Khulna ...	426
Babu Gopal Chandra Mukerjee, District Magistrate-designate of Faridpur ...	ib.
A recent case in Rajshahi ...	ib.
The Town Hall protest meeting ...	ib.
Lord Curzon and the Town Hall protest meeting ...	ib.
Lord Curzon praised for his sympathy with the sufferers from the earthquake ...	427
The Government report on the recent earthquake ...	ib.
Englishmen's dealings with Indians not marked by truthfulness ...	ib.
The respective grants for police reform and for education ...	ib.
The removal of the office of the Board of Revenue to the Writers' Buildings ...	ib.
An official Conference ...	428
The Rolt case ...	ib.
The partition scheme ...	ib.
Government and the District Boards ...	ib.
Mr. Halifax, Magistrate of Murshidabad	429
III.—LEGISLATION.	
A suggestion made by the <i>Englishman</i> ...	429
The proposed jute legislation ...	ib.
Rumoured legislation for the education of wards of encumbered estates under Government management ...	ib.
The police reform ...	ib.
The proposed Police Act ...	ib.
IV.—NATIVE STATES.	
Recent examples of the attitude of Government towards Native States in Bengal ...	429
Government criticism upon the criminal administration of the Tippera State ...	430
V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.	
Damage to the crops in Bengal ...	430
Failure of the crops in the Central and other Provinces ...	ib.
VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.	
Who is to blame for misgovernment in a country ?	430
The Provincial Conference at Mymensingh ...	ib.
The Provincial Conference at Mymensingh ...	ib.
The Provincial Conference at Mymensingh ...	431
The recent Provincial Conference at Mymensingh ...	ib.
Zamindars and the Provincial Conference ...	432
India's poverty ...	ib.
Lord Curzon's Administration ...	ib.
The national awakening of India ...	ib.
The Queen-Empress's sympathy with the sufferers from the earthquake ...	ib.
Mr. Alfred Webb's criticism of the Viceroy's Convocation speech ...	ib.
The prospect of a higher title to Lord Curzon ...	ib.
URIYA PAPERS.	
Rinderpest in Rautrapur 433
Prospects of the mango crop ...	ib.
The new Uriya national <i>pagri</i> and the Raja of Surangi ...	ib.
Balajhar in Talcher ...	ib.
A tiger in the neighbourhood of Talcher ...	ib.
The weather in Balasore ...	ib.
The weather in Balasore ...	ib.
An Uriya Agricultural Primer ...	ib.
Transformation of the god Jagannath of Puri into Raghunath ...	ib.
The Kharagpur railway outrage case ...	ib.
The weather in Cuttack ...	ib.
Cholera in Cuttack ...	ib.
The recent Allahabad meeting of protest against Lord Curzon's policy and Convocation speech ...	434
The Mansingpatna dacoity case in Cuttack ...	ib.
The King's sympathy for the sufferers from the recent earthquake ...	ib.
The Viceroy's recent Budget speech ...	ib.
ASSAM PAPERS.	
Items about the Education Department in Assam ...	434
Educational reforms ...	ib.
The Education Department and the Hon'ble Mr. Fuller ...	435
Police matters ...	436
Allegations against a Postmaster ...	437

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE SULTAN [Calcutta] of the 21st April expresses the opinion that absolutely no Power which goes by the name of a Christian one is a true friend of the Musalmans; but that of course it must be admitted that England is to a large extent better than the other Powers in this respect.

SULTAN,
April 21st, 1905.

2. The Mihir-o-Sudhakar [Calcutta] of the 21st April writes:—

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
April 21st, 1905.

There is no want of wrong-headed people in Turkey in Europe. England, who, like Satan, think of nothing but how Turkey may not continue in Europe.

3. The Daily Hitavadi [Calcutta] of the 22nd April writes:—

DAILY HITAVADI,
April 22nd, 1905.

Since the battle of Mukden, the influence of Effects of Japanese victory in the West in the countries of the East has been shaken to its very foundations. It was hitherto a fixed belief in the East that the Western Powers were unconquerable. In the war in Manchuria, Japan has proved to the East the hollowness of this belief. With the victory of Japan, signs are visible of the awakening of a new life in Persia, Afghanistan, Siam, China and other independent countries of Asia. The countries of Asia are looking forward to the enjoyment of a fuller measure of freedom, while we are looking forward to enjoying equal rights with the white subjects of Britain. The employment of Indians in increasing numbers in the higher offices of State; the meting out of equal justice between black and white; a certain measure of control by the Indian public over the expenditure of the country's taxes;—these are the points to which the aim of educated India is nowadays prominently directed. Intelligent officials can understand that it is so. As long as England commands the confidence of Indians, Japan, even if she turns against England, will not be able to injure her present ally's interests in India. Even if Japanese influence becomes paramount in the Pacific, England's power will continue undiminished in the Indian Ocean.

4. Referring to the treaty between England and Japan, the *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 23rd April makes the following remarks:—

HITAVARTA,
April 23rd, 1905.

It was our sanguine hope that some day or other, our rulers will have to give us military education, but with the proposed Anglo-Japanese treaty that hope of ours will be gone, seeing the present condition of Russia. We cannot even entertain the idea of a Russian invasion of India.

5. Referring to the Kabul Mission, the *Roshnama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 24th April says that nothing can be known regarding the success or otherwise of the said Mission unless there is an exchange of Ambassadors between Afghanistan and other Kingdoms. It seems that the present Amir has not accepted any new condition in his treaty with the Government of India.

ROSHNAMA-I-MUKADDAS HABLUL MATEEN,
April 24th, 1905.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

6. The Sansadhini [Chittagong] of the 7th April notices the case of a constable on duty in connexion with the *Sivachaturdasi mela* at Sitakund, who, when called on by one

SANSODHINI,
April 7th, 1905.

Complaints regarding the *Siva-chaturdasi mela* at Sitakund. Hari Mohan Ghosal to assist in rescuing a young Brahman pilgrim from Kirtipasa in Barisal, who had met with an accident in the midst of the crowd of pilgrims and fainted on the spot, met the appeal with a surly reproof.

SANSODHINI,
April 7th, 1905.

Reference is also made in the same paper to the absence of lights on the roads during the same *mela*.

SANSODHINI,
April 7th, 1905.

7. A correspondent of the Jyoti [Chittagong] of the 13th April says that the case of the murder of one Abdul Karim, an inhabitant of the Musapur village in Sandwip, was spoilt by the local police by its persistent refusal to inquire into it immediately after its occurrence. When at last the police went to investigate the case 20 days after the occurrence, nothing but the skeleton of the dead body

JYOTI,
April 13th, 1905.

remained, and, consequently, difficulties of identification and evidence arose. A relative and a daughter of the deceased and an Assistant Settlement Officer who had encamped near the place of occurrence had given early information of the matter to the police. The escape of the offender caused by this culpable neglect of duty on the part of the police has struck terror into the hearts of the local people.

SURJAN,
April 18th, 1905.

8. The *Suhrid* [Noakhali] of the 13th April draws attention to the prevalence of the offences of the sale of adulterated milk and the use of false weights in the town of Noakhali.

A complaint.

JYOTI,
April 18th, 1905.

9. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 13th April says that the conduct of the Chittagong police in the recent outbreak of fire in Basirhat in Chittagong town was marked with culpable neglect of duty. For nearly half an hour after the outbreak of the fire the police remained inactive, and after that only a few bucketfuls of water were thrown upon the fire. Most of the constables present lurked behind the crowd which had assembled at the place.

JYOTI.

10. The same paper requests the District Magistrate of Chittagong to take the case of the theft in the house of Babu Rajendra Nath Ghosh, Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of the Division, into his own file, as it is likely to make interesting revelations.

11. The same paper says that the Chittagong police is showing great activity in the investigation of the case of theft which occurred in the house of Babu Rajendra Nath Ghose, Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of the Division. It is a pity that the police has failed to show similar activity in more important cases of theft. Perhaps the occurrence of a theft in the Personal Assistant's house, and some strict orders from the Divisional Commissioner and the District Magistrate, have given a stimulus to the activity of the police. But its failure to trace the more important cases of theft shows that the services of an able detective officer should be requisitioned for the purpose.

RANGPUR
VARTAWALA,
April 14th, 1905.

12. The *Rangpur Vartavala* [Rangpur] of the 14th April writes :—

Will the Nawabganj brothel murder case be hushed up like the case of Batal chaukidar and Sarojini? Thanks to money and the honesty of the Rangpur police, the culprits in neither of the two latter cases could be traced. The Magistrate is requested to make an enquiry into all these cases.

ISLAM ALAM,
April 14th, 1905.

13. The *Islam Alam* [Calcutta] of the 14th April draws attention to the outrages committed by a gang of *budmashes* at Narikeldanga near the Beliaghata police-station in the suburbs of Calcutta. It is alleged that this gang first intoxicate themselves with toddy and *bhang* and then create a great row, often going so far as to molest female passers-by.

JYOTI,
April 20th, 1905.

14. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 20th April notices a complaint that gangs of *sannyasis* have begun to quarter themselves in different villages in that district, where, by their indulgence in *ganja* and wine, and other vices, they become quite a menace to the local morals and peace.

KHULNAVASI,
April 22nd, 1905.

15. A correspondent of the *Khulnavasi* [Khulna] of the 22nd April reports that on the night of the 31st March last, three thefts were committed in the same night in the villages of Monbhog and Mansa in the thana of Fakirhat in Khulna in the houses of Babus Bhagirath Sen, Trailackyanath Bose and Lal Bihari Ghose. A fourth case is also reported to have occurred, on the night of the 5th April following, in the house of Babu Barada Kanta Vishnu.

BHARAT MITRA,
April 22nd, 1905.

16. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April says that Mr. Bignell the present Police Commissioner of Calcutta, is going on leave on account of his ill-health. The activity shown in the discharge of his duties has made him very popular with the citizens of Calcutta. They, therefore, pray to God that he may be soon restored to health.

17. A correspondent of the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April gives detailed accounts of two cases of dacoity attended Dacoities in the Burdwan district. with great violence and cruelty in village Dhuluk within the Jamalpur thanas of the Burdwan district on the night of the 25th Chaitra last. The dacoits numbered 14 or 15 men. The first case was in the house of Bhupan Mandal and the second in the house of Monomohun Acharyya, who was Bhupan Mandal's neighbour. For about two hours and a half the dacoits continued to loot all sorts of articles from the houses, and carried away large quantities of gold and silver ornaments, valuable cloths, cash and other articles. The inhabitants of all the surrounding villages have been greatly alarmed at these dacoities. Many cases of daring thefts were heard of some time ago in those quarters. Other cases of dacoity have been reported from the villages of Jamdo, Panchra, Masa and Krishnachandrapur. In all these cases the police failed to trace the culprits.

BANGAVASI,
April 22nd, 1905.

18. Referring to the acquittal of a European constable of Raniganj, named Gibbs, in a criminal case brought against him by the wife of a chaukidar of Messrs. Kellner & Co., and to the conviction of the woman by the Magistrate in a counter-case brought against her by Gibbs, the same paper observes :—

BANGAVASI.

A criminal case against European constable at Raniganj. Let the woman be punished if she be guilty and the plea of the right of self-defence cannot justify her conduct. But why should Gibbs be acquitted, who, as stated in the judgement, was guilty of illegal conduct?

19. The *Dacca Prakas* [Dacea] of 23rd April reports that thefts have become alarmingly frequent in the villages of Mulchar, Kandarbari, Chachartola, etc., in Rajabari in the Dacca district. In none of the cases which have yet occurred is the amount of the loss less than Rs. 500.

DACCA PRAKAS,
April 23rd, 1905

20. The same paper suggests that one of the powers with which the Presidents of the panchayets under the new system should be armed is the power of examining and reporting on cases of accidental death, as the present system whereby corpses in such cases have to be carried to a distant police thana, there to await the pleasure of the thana officer for a personal inspection, is perhaps the most harrowing of all the forms of harassment at the hands of the police to which the Indian public are now subject.

DACCA PRAKAS.

A suggestion in connexion with the new scheme of chaukidari reform. An allegation against the police in connexion with the late Town Hall protest meeting. recently made a tour of the various Government offices in order to identify the clerks in each such office who attended the late Town Hall meeting of protest against Lord Curzon's Convocation speech and general administrative policy. It is further alleged that an effort was also made to bring to trouble a well-known pleader who attended this meeting on the charge that he possessed arms without a license, but that later on it was found out that he was exempted from the operation of the Arms Act as he was an Honorary Magistrate as well.

SANDHYA,
April 25th, 1905.

21. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 25th April makes the allegation that, acting under the authority of some overzealous officer of the police who apparently wished to please the authorities, a number of policemen

One Nazur Ali of Faterabad was challaned by the police for having telegraphed to the District Magistrate in the name of another, named Ismail, for inquiry into the death of Ismail's father. At the trial at the Sessions, the jurors unanimously held Nazir not guilty, but the Judge disagreed and submitted the case for orders to the High Court. We repeat our request to the Magistrate to undertake either a personal inquiry or to have one made by Asu Babu into the original case. There is a deep mystery underlying this case. If for nothing else, a second inquiry is at least called for by the doctor's report on it.

SANSODHINI,
April 7th, 1905.

(b) — Working of the Courts.

22. The *Sansodhini* [Chittagong] of the 7th April writes :—

A case of suspicious death in Chittagong. One Nazur Ali of Faterabad was challaned by the police for having telegraphed to the District Magistrate in the name of another, named Ismail, for inquiry into the death of Ismail's father. At the trial at the Sessions, the jurors unanimously held Nazir not guilty, but the Judge disagreed and submitted the case for orders to the High Court. We repeat our request to the Magistrate to undertake either a personal inquiry or to have one made by Asu Babu into the original case. There is a deep mystery underlying this case. If for nothing else, a second inquiry is at least called for by the doctor's report on it.

RANGPUR
VARTAKALA,
April 16th, 1905.

23. The *Rangpur Vartakala* [Rangpur] of the 14th April says that as the number of criminal cases in which women are concerned is not small in the Rangpur district, it was to be expected that the Courts should take particular care in the disposal of such cases. But such is not, however, the case. In cases in which women are abducted, the Courts seldom grant warrants for the production of the women in Court.

Lately Panchkari Das of Sundarganj thana complained under section 552 of the Criminal Procedure Code that his daughter, aged ten years, had been abducted by one Madhab Chandra Das. No warrant was granted and only a notice was issued against the defendant. The case was dismissed and the complainant was referred to a Civil Court.

24. The *Charu Mikir* [Mymensingh] of the 18th April writes :—

The case of Ram Kumar Gope. Our readers will remember the case of Ram Kumar Gope, who was kept in jail for 14 days after he had been acquitted on appeal. We understand that Ram Kumar has given notice of his intention of suing the Secretary of State for India in Council for damages for Rs. 600 for the unlawful restraint to which he was subjected. The day after he gave this notice, Ram Kumar appeared before Mr. Thomson, the local District Magistrate, and represented to him through his pleader that on the 11th April last, two constables took him (Ram Kumar) before the Subdivisional Officer of Jamalpur, where he was compelled to put his signature on a piece of blank paper. Mr. Thomson promised to enquire into this allegation.

25. In commenting on the action of the Subdivisional Officer of Raniganj in dismissing the suit which was recently instituted in his Court by Mussammat Sobhagya Chhattrini, wife of a chaukidar in the employ of the local estab-

lishment of Messrs. Kellner & Co., against A. Morse and a police sergeant, Mr. Gibbs, as also in his passing a sentence of a fine of Rs. 15 on the same Mussammat Sobhagya Chhattrini in a cross-case which was brought against her by the defendants in the previous case, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 20th April writes :—

Whatever may be the impression of the trying Magistrate, the public at large can never believe that this Rajput woman dared to give vent to her anger by attempting to "sacrifice" a police sergeant, who is a very messenger of death, as it were, in the presence of so many other messengers of death in the persons of the peons, clerks, &c., who accompanied him to her house. Again, why was not the evidence of the head-constable, who was present at the time of the occurrence, taken?

The Magistrate has distinctly stated in his judgement that Sergeant Gibbs had absolutely no authority to conduct the inquiry into the present case. No sergeant possesses any power of search. Sergeant Gibbs's action was in the present case distinctly illegal. If the sergeant had no authority to make the search, and if in that case, Sobhagya Chhattrini raises a *dao* in order to defend herself, how can that be reckoned an offence on her part?

26. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 20th April writes :—

Relations between Divisional Commissioners and District Judges. A Conference of Commissioners was held at Darjeeling in October last, the proceedings of which were treated as confidential. In our issue of to-day we publish a letter (No. 1817J., dated the 24th February 1905, over the signature of Mr. Carlyle) giving effect to one of the decisions of the Conference. We cannot find words adequate to describe the deadly effect of this decision. While the whole of India is waiting in eager anxiety for a measure by which the executive will be deprived of their judicial powers, the Bengal Government is proposing to subordinate even the District Judges to the executive officials of Government. Hitherto these Judges were directly subordinate to the High Court, henceforth they are to be treated as subordinate to the Divisional Commissioners also. The proposed limit of the subordination of the District Judge to the Divisional Commissioner extends to all matters except those strictly relating to the discharge of their duties as Judges, but in practice it will be found that even in the discharge of their duties as Judges, these Judges will stand in perpetual awe of the Commissioners. There is nothing strange in the

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26. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 20th April writes :—

Relations between Divisional Commissioners and District Judges. A Conference of Commissioners was held at Darjeeling in October last, the proceedings of which were treated as confidential. In our issue of to-day we publish a letter (No. 1817J., dated the 24th February 1905, over the signature of Mr. Carlyle) giving effect to one of the decisions of the Conference. We cannot find words adequate to describe the deadly effect of this decision. While the whole of India is waiting in eager anxiety for a measure by which the executive will be deprived of their judicial powers, the Bengal Government is proposing to subordinate even the District Judges to the executive officials of Government. Hitherto these Judges were directly subordinate to the High Court, henceforth they are to be treated as subordinate to the Divisional Commissioners also. The proposed limit of the subordination of the District Judge to the Divisional Commissioner extends to all matters except those strictly relating to the discharge of their duties as Judges, but in practice it will be found that even in the discharge of their duties as Judges, these Judges will stand in perpetual awe of the Commissioners. There is nothing strange in the

executive having suggested such a change. But we cannot imagine how the High Court could agree to hand over the District Judges to the control of the Divisional Commissioners. We are sure the whole country will be alarmed by this proposal and protest against it.

27. It is rumoured, says the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st April that District Judges will be made subordinate to Divisional Commissioners. If true, it is surely an alarming news. It is hoped the Lieutenant-Governor will soon enlighten the public in the matter.

Rumoured change in the status of District Judges.

28. A correspondent writing in the *Mohammadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st April says that the action taken by the Subdivisional Officer of Jamalpur in the Mymensingh district, under the misrepresentation of the Hanifi sect, in prohibiting *bahadur*, has led to great ill-feeling between the Hanifis and the Mohammadi. The illiterate members of the two sects are betraying their ill-feeling everywhere. The Hanifis are accusing the Mohammadi Maulvis of not performing *bahadur* and the Mohammadi are retorting. A breach of the public peace is therefore apprehended. The Subdivisional Officer should summon the Maulvis of both sects before him and set the quarrel at rest.

An action of the Subdivisional Officer of Jamalpur in Mymensingh.

29. Referring to the Jhansi case in which several persons have been sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for terms varying from one year to two and-a-half years for

The Jhansi case.

having beaten two military men, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st April says : -

We would not enquire whether the Judge who tried the case was a European or a native, or whether the hurt caused by the offenders was grievous. We would simply ask, what would have been the punishment of the two military men if they had killed one or two villagers?

30. Commenting upon the heavy sentence passed in the case in which some natives of Chakarpur in Jhansi were charged with assaulting two European military officers, the

Hitavarta [Calcutta] of the 23rd April asks: If these two officers had beaten some Indian villagers to death, would they have been so severely punished?

31. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st April says : -

Mr. Tahal Ram in the Police Court.

Mr. Tahal Ram appeared before the Presidency Magistrate, Calcutta, to show cause why he should not discontinue to deliver speeches in College Square. His Worship refused to allow him to stand by the side of his Barrister and compelled him to stand in the dock. Why was this done? Mr. Tahal Ram came to the Court of his own free will. No Presidency Magistrate could compel him to do so. Is it an offence on his part that his speeches attract large audiences? It has not been even suggested by the police that his speeches contain anything unlawful, or that they are likely to cause breaches of public tranquillity. Why was then a respectable man like him so shabbily treated in the Court? Had he been a European, would the Presidency Magistrate have meted out the same treatment to him?

32. Referring to the Police Commissioner's notice forbidding Mr. Tahal Ram from delivering open-air lectures in the College Square, the *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 23rd April observes that the said officer ought to have forbidden the Christian missionaries first from

delivering their lectures in that Square. Not having done so, the Police Commissioner himself is liable to show cause why Tahal Ram alone and not the Christian missionaries should have been forbidden to deliver his speeches in the College Square.

33. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st April publishes a partial contradiction of what appeared in a previous issue about the conduct of the Subdivisional Officer of Habiganj

in relation to two local zamindars (see Report on Native Papers of the 15th April 1905, paragraph 31). The writer says that the allegation that "one of the zamindars succeeded in getting his discharge by paying repeated calls at the Deputy Magistrate's house" is false.

HITAVADI,
April 21st, 1905.

MOHAMMADI,
April 21st 1905,

HITAVADI,
April 21st, 1905.

HITAVARTA,
April 23rd, 1905.

HITAVADI.
April 21st, 1905.

HITAVARTA,
April 23rd, 1905.

HITAVADI,
April 21st, 1905.

KHULNAVASI,
April 22nd, 1905.

34. The *Khulnavasi* [Khulna] of the 22nd April has the following paragraph:—

Allegations against a Munsif of Khulna.

It appears from the columns of our contemporary the *Bengalee* that a Munsif of this place is not in the habit of properly behaving with the suitors and pleaders who appear in his Court. Our contemporary has not published the name of this officer, but has been content with warning him to behave better in the future. But here at Khulna, nobody is at a loss to know the person who is meant. It is said that there was a great commotion over the matter in the Bar Library, but that the mediation of the local Sub-Judge has saved the situation for the time.

HITAVARTA,
April 23rd, 1905.

Gati Mandal of Murshidabad and the local Magistrate.

35. Referring to the appeal of Gati Mandal of Murshidabad which he has preferred in the Calcutta High Court, the *Hitavarti* [Calcutta] of the 23rd April says that although the local Inspector of Police reported that the statement of the complainant was correct, yet the Subdivisional Magistrate of Kandi, has called upon him to show cause why he should not be prosecuted for bringing a false charge against Mr. Williamson. The Sub-Deputy Magistrate, who was directed to investigate the summons case of Gati Mandal *versus* Mr. Williamson, reported that the charge was correct. Still the Subdivisional Magistrate committed the case to the Sessions Court. Gati Mandal was compelled to seek the protection of the High Court, which set aside the order of the Subdivisional Magistrate. Poor Gati Mandal's troubles were, however, not yet over. That officer became angry with him. After one month he was again charged with the same offence. The Subdivisional Magistrate wrote to the District Magistrate that in compliance with his direction a special order was passed to convict Gati Mandal, who has had to go up to the High Court again. The question is, why so much effort to get Gati Mandal convicted? Why so frequent orders on Subordinate Magistrates? Whatever may be the reason, the proceedings are altogether illegal. We are anxiously awaiting to see the result of this case, and hope the Lieutenant-Governor will be pleased to take notice of it.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
April 24th, 1905.

The Magistrate and Deputy Magistrate of Hooghly.

36. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 24th April and the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April notice the cases in which the Magistrate of Hooghly brought a case against his Uriya bearer, and the Deputy Magistrate of the same place against his Sonthal tailor. To give up an employment under a European after having once accepted it, is also now becoming a difficult affair.

(d)—*Education..*

SANSODHINI,
April 7th, 1905.

The Chittagong Collegiate School.

37. The *Sansodhini* [Chittagong] of the 7th April notices that the number of students on the rolls of the local Collegiate School has fallen off to less than 200, and remarks that this falling off can be attributed only to the results of the examinations, for there is nothing to be alleged against the qualifications of the teachers of the school, nor should men so qualified be suspected of discharging their duties in anything but a satisfactory manner. And yet the fact remains that as regards the result both in the University Entrance Examination as well as in the class examinations, the Collegiate School is not superior to the neighbouring schools to the extent that might be looked for. If there is another thing to be noticed about this school, it is the constant changes in the teaching staff.

SANJIVANI,
April 20th, 1905.

38. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 20th April, in noticing the recently gazetted grant of leave for a month and 25 days to Mr. Pedler and the acting arrangement sanctioned in consequence thereof, expresses the opinion that it was not right to have placed a man of the immature years of Mr. Jackson, and without knowledge of the ways of the department, in charge of the office of Director even for such a short time.

39. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 20th April publishes the following from its Assam correspondent regarding certain changes in the Education Department of that Province:—

The Assam Education Department. Men like Dr. Booth are rare even in the ranks of the entire Education Service. It is therefore a matter of serious shame and regret that Mr. Fuller has not been able to appreciate the worth of such a man. Mr. Fuller was in the habit of constant personal interference in the department and he even went so far as to deprive Dr. Booth of certain of his powers. Dr. Booth is an independent and plain-spoken man. He could not submit to Mr. Fuller's injustices without protest and the result was a perpetual squabble. Government recently sanctioned a recurring part of a lakh per annum for the improvement of primary education in the Province. An increase in the inspecting staff was found necessary in consequence and 2 new Inspectors and 14 Deputy Inspectors were sanctioned. Dr. Booth was in favour of filling up these new posts by selection from qualified men connected with the high schools and the Cotton College at Gauhati, but Mr. Fuller ignored Dr. Booth's recommendations and brought in a number of outsiders and promoted a number of Sub-Inspectors to fill the vacancies. Dr. Booth has in consequence left the Province and reverted to Bengal.

Babu Indra Bhushan Brahmachari, the Professor of Mathematics in the Gauhati College, is a highly competent man and a Prem Chand Roy Chand scholar. Dr. Booth recommended him for the office of Inspector of Schools in the Surma Valley, but Mr. Fuller preferred Rai Shaheb Pramada Kumar Bose, the Principal of the second grade private college (the Murari Chand College) at Sylhet. Pramada Babu's age is not less than 35, so that he must be considered too old to enter Government service now. His educational career, too, was not at all brilliant, he being a mere third class M. A.

Then, again, as to the 14 new Deputy Inspectors of Schools, there are a number of head-masters and second masters of district high schools who are in receipt of good salaries and also possess large experience. These are the men who should have got these new posts, but instead, a number of outsiders and Sub-Inspectors who had influence with Mr. Fuller's Private Secretary, Mr. Macsweeny, obtained the preference. And even among the Sub-Inspectors who has been so promoted, three or four deserving men have been left in the cold shade of neglect.

40. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April writes:—

Hygiene for village *pathsalas* in Bengal.

The uneducated masses in the mafassal suffer in health in many ways owing to their ignorance of even the primary rules of hygiene. The Manuals

of Hygiene which used to be formerly taught in the village *pathsalas* often contained things which betrayed a complete ignorance of the actual conditions of Bengali village life. For instance, it is utterly beyond the power of a poverty-stricken cultivator of Lower Bengal to act on the advice of these books that the daily bath is to be taken in a closed room, and that the body after the bath is to be rubbed with a dry towel and next covered with a coat or shirt. We trust, if Government now proposes to include hygienic lessons in the course of instruction for village schools, it will take particular care in selecting the text-books.

41. A correspondent of the same paper makes the following allegations in connexion with the Sanskrit Titles Examination this year:—

(1) The second question in the first paper in the second examination was as follows:—*এক অংশ। শাকুন্তলায় পতি গৃহ প্রেরণ কালে কান্ত পেন শাকুন্তলা শারদতো র্ষীক্ষব শিখে। অস্থিতো, একজনয় প্রেরণে কান্তভিঃ।*

Probably "শাকুন্তলায়" is to be taken to mean "শকুন্তলামৃহ" Let that pass, however. The question here is, why were two pupils sent, what was the harm in sending only one? It is not an easy matter to answer this question. Is it not wrong to expect second examination candidates to answer such a question?

(2) The second paper was on essay-writing and translation. The essay paper was not received in the Dacca centre at all. After the examinees had been supplied with the translation paper, some of them enquired for this essay

SANJIVANI,
April 20th, 1905.

DAILY HITAVADI.
April 22nd, 1905.

DAILY HITAVADI.

paper, but they were told to wait. And they were kept waiting till 5, when the questions were received from Calcutta by wire and the examinees told to answer the questions within the limit of an hour's time. The time accorded to the translation and essay papers is 4 hours, of which 2 hours should go to essay-writing, as 50 marks out of the total of 100 are allotted to it.

BASUMATI,
April 22nd, 1905.

42. Referring to the rules made by Mr. Pedler, Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, for the admission of boys into schools, the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April writes:—

One of the rules requires the father or guardian of a boy to go personally to the school with a respectable witness. Is this possible in all cases? Supposing a student from Sylhet wishes to be admitted into a school in Calcutta, is the father of the boy to come all the way to Calcutta with a respectable witness? Or suppose Maharaja Jatindra Mohun Tagore wishes to have his son admitted into the Hindu School. Is the Maharaja himself to go to the school for the purpose with a respectable witness? Does Mr. Pedler mean to say that the guardians of boys are liars? On no other assumption can any justification for this rule be found.

Another rule requires that the father of the boy must state his income and the sources of income. Why should a person be called upon to give all these informations? A person's income may be small, or he may have some questionable source of income. What have these things to do with his son's admission into any school?

BANGAVASI.
April 22nd, 1905.

43. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April calls upon the Principal of the Sanskrit College to make over the management of the hostel at Colutolla in Calcutta, intended for the students of the Chatuspathi branch of the

College, to a Professor who will take interest in it. The hostel building is the gift of the late Babu Balai Chand Datta, Solicitor, who was very anxious to give encouragement to the study of Sanskrit.

BANGAVASI,

Selection of text-books for schools in Bengal.

Another rule requires that the father of the boy must state his income and the sources of income. Why should a person be called upon to give all these informations? A person's income may be small, or he may have some questionable source of income. What have these things to do with his son's admission into any school?

44. Referring to the replies of Government to the questions asked by the Hon'ble Bhupendranath Basu in the Bengal Legislative Council on the subject of the selection of text-books in Bengal, the same paper says:—

We do not think that the right of interpellation granted to non-official Members of Council has conferred any real benefit. In most cases the replies given are insufficient and unsatisfactory, and the Hon'ble Member asking the questions has no course left but to remain satisfied with them. As an illustration, the replies given to the two questions of the Hon'ble Bhupendranath Basu in the Council meeting of the 24th March last may be mentioned. Government said that some books had been in use for more than one year, simply because they had been reported by experts to be the best on the subjects taken up. Now, it may be asked whether it has been the policy always to select what are called the "best" text-books. Most persons believe that, far from that policy being acted upon, it has generally been the custom to select any text-book by an author whose book has been approved in order to encourage each such author by turns. All things considered, this is a very commendable method of selection of the approved text-books. Why then should there be a departure now from that policy all on a sudden? It is neither just nor politic, nor indicative of high-mindedness to shower favours upon a particular individual and to leave others in the cold shade of neglect. Are the best books in all the subjects taught similarly selected year after year, to the exclusion of others that are held to be inferior in merit? If not, why should these particular books be so treated?

Again, the Hon'ble Babu Bhupendranath asked why out of six books recommended by the Text-Book Committee for standard VI, only that published by Messrs. Blackie & Sons was selected for all the nine Divisions in Bengal. The reply to this question was the same as above, viz., that the book by Messrs. Blackie & Sons was considered by a leading expert to be distinctly superior to the others. Here, again, we have the statement that the book was the "best." Now, opinions differ as to the respective merits of several books. How is it that the opinion of only one "leading expert" was taken?

Supposing, however, that the book entitled "Newton Reader No. I" by Messrs. Blackie & Sons was really the best book among the six text-books, why should that book enjoy a monopoly and the others be altogether discarded? The authorities have so long freely admitted that an approved text-book, though not the best, has every right to be selected because it has been approved. Why have they now changed their language? How is it that they hold other views when Messrs. Blackie & Sons alone are concerned?

Let us now see what lessons this book, "Newton Reader No. I," teaches. We make the following quotation from the lesson "The uses of the cow":—

"We eat the flesh of the cow, do we not?" asked Mary.

"Yes," replied Percy, "The flesh of the cow is called beef. The fat is called suet, and is used to make puddings."

"But they do not kill the young cows, do they, Percy?"

"Yes, some of them. The young ones are called calves. If the farmer has more calves than he wants to keep, he sells some of them to the butcher, who kills them for food."

This "best" book seeks to teach the lesson to Hindu boys that beef is a food, and that suet is made use of to prepare pudding. Beef is an abomination to the Hindus, and a topic dealing with the killing of cows and calves gives mortal offence to them. Is it wise, if not from any other consideration, at least from political considerations, to propose to teach such things to Hindu boys? His Honour Sir Andrew Fraser will, we hope, give to this matter his earnest consideration.

The Indian "farmer" never sells calves to the butcher, so the statement in the book was meant not for Indian boys but English boys. Many other examples may be cited from the book, showing that the book was not written for Bengali boys. What can there be in the following description of the sugar-cane for mafassal Bengali boys to learn?:—

He looked at the stick for a long time. He had never seen one like it before. It was more than one inch thick and the outside was very smooth and shining.

"I will now cut out a piece from the middle and you shall taste it."

"What! Taste a stick!" said Tom, "How can I eat a stick?"

"But he did as his uncle told him, and he found that the stick was very sweet and tasted as if it had been soaked in sugar-water."

"It is like a very tall and thick grass. It has a very long and straight stem, with leaves like large grass-blades, and a bunch of pretty flowers on the top."

"The sugar-cane grows very high. It is fully twice as tall as I am."

"Has it any branches, uncle?"

"No, it has only the one long stem with leaves and flowers."

Not only is there nothing to be learnt by Bengali boys from the above, but the description would serve admirably to bring a smile to their lips. Moreover, the book is so full of unnecessary and useless matters and of verbosity that it is a wonder that the educational authorities should have stamped it as "best" and selected it as a text-book for Bengali students.

The transformations of the butterfly have been described in the book with a minuteness which can never be instructive or interesting to the students without practical demonstration. Since that is impossible, such lessons will only serve to put a premium upon cramming.

The description with illustrative pictures given in the book of cruelties practised upon animals must tend to make the students cruel to the lower animals by familiarizing them with all the details of torture. Such stories can never be fit subjects of study for Bengali students.

It will thus appear that this "best" book is unsuitable not only for Bengali boys but harmful to all boys, and that it was written only for English boys. Messrs. Blackie & Sons made no attempt to make the book suitable for the requirements of our boys beyond calling it on the title page the "Indian edition" without any justification whatever.

The old Text-Book Committee seldom approved such books for Bengali boys. But the independence and moral courage of that body are now things of the past.

45. Referring to the sale of certain pictures from the art gallery in the

The Government School of Art Government School of Art, the Basumatî [Calcutta] and Mr. Havell. of the 22nd April writes as follows:—

A cry has been raised by Englishmen that Indian students of art should not try to copy European models. Mr. Havell,

BASUMATI,
April 22nd, 1905.

the Principal of the Government School of Art, is trying to persuade the Indians that the students should follow native models such as are to be met with in Delhi or Agra, and that originality may be shown by painting gorgeous pictures devoid of light and shade. The attempt to restrict primary education by means of barriers such as the different dialects in Bengal afford, has raised grave apprehensions in our minds. Similar apprehensions are inseparable from the indefatigable attempt of Mr. Havell and others to restrict art to ancient native models. The result of this attempt must be that Indian students of art will be debarred from what may be regarded as masterpieces of art—models which do not belong to any particular age or clime, which are as universal, picturesque and full of grandeur as human character itself.

It is said that Mr. Havell has asked Government to appoint Babu Abanindra Nath Tagore, who has considerable proficiency in painting according to the ancient Indian model, as Vice-Principal of the Government School of Art. We do not see why Abanindra Babu should be preferred to other Indian candidates far more eligible for the post. The claims of Babus Baradakanta Datta and Jadab Chandra Chakrabarti ought never to be ignored.

We have also heard that Mr. Havell is trying to appoint one Iswari Prasad as Head-master of the School of Art. This Iswari Prasad was merely a designer of cloth borders on Rs. 25 per month. With what propriety has Mr. Havell appointed a man with such antecedents on Rs. 75 per month to the post which was filled by such a distinguished painter as Babu Annada Prasad Bagchi? The deterioration of the Government School of Art dates from the advent of Mr. Havell, and he is trying to do his best for the ruin of the institution and to destroy the prospects of the students.

46. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd April writes:—

The students of the Government School of Art

The Government School of Art, have been heard to complain that the authorities of the institution do not now take much interest

in the teaching of the fine arts. Has this apathy any connection with the success which the paintings of some Indian artists, like Mr. Rabi Varma, are finding in the Indian market, prejudicing to some extent the sale in India of the productions of British artists?

Complaints have also been heard against the Principal to the effect that the teachers of the school are often employed by him in his private work, and that not only are the peons of the school kept incessantly engaged in taking private letters of the Principal and his wife to their friends, but even the services of the students are not often requisitioned for this purpose. The allegations, if true, are very serious. Government should make an enquiry into their truth and let the public know its result. The writer should like to see Mr. Havell proved innocent of the charges made against him.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

PRATIJNA,
April 12th, 1905.

A suggestion for the prevention
of the plague

47. In view of the prevalence of the plague epidemic in Calcutta at the present time, the *Pratijna* [Calcutta] of the 12th April suggests, as a means of purifying the entire atmosphere of the town, the burning of sulphur, resin, and other disinfectants over heaps of dried cow-dung in selected spots of open ground on the outskirts of all the four sides of the city.

48. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 20th April writes:—

Suggested extermination of rats.
Government proposes to bring out a number of doctors on fat salaries to study the etiology of the plague. We can well imagine what these doctors will do. Letting that alone, however, might we not suggest to Government the desirability of making an organized effort to catch rats? If the Calcutta Municipality would offer a reward in this direction, the whole town might soon be absolutely freed from these pests. Government should use compulsion towards the Municipality to offer such a reward.

BANGAVASI,
April 22nd, 1905.

Government's plague policy.

49. Referring to the reply given at the United Provinces Legislative Council to a question asked by a native member on the subject of the introduction of plague preventive

measures, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April says that the statement that all facilities for disinfection would be afforded without the employment of force is all that can be desired. It was the adoption of this wise policy that earned for the late Sir John Woodburn such well-deserved popularity.

50. The *Santi* [Madaripur] of the 28th March complains about the Water-scarcity in Faridpur. prevalence of water-scarcity in many parts of the Faridpur district. In certain places near Chikandi water has to be transported for use over distances of a mile and a half. The local khals and tanks have quite dried up.

51. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 20th April writes :—

The water-scarcity question.

The sufferings of the village public owing to water-scarcity in this terribly hot weather are not unknown to our rulers. The village tanks until now had possessed some sort of muddy water with which the villagers had been supplying their needs, but even that muddy water is now about to be converted into perfectly dry soil. Cries of distress on this score are beginning to be heard from all sides. The 12 lakhs which have been allotted to the District Boards this year should be devoted to amelioration on this head.

52. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 20th April has an article in which it explains the principle of purifying water by means of sulphate of copper, as contained in last week's *Scientific American*. The paper observes that this method is the best and the simplest that can be adopted in villages for purifying the water of filthy tanks. The municipal authorities in Bengal should consider the matter carefully.

53. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st April fully supports the proposal made by Mr. Bertram in a recent meeting of the Calcutta Municipal Corporation that the rules against free and unrestricted use of water in the town should be rescinded.

54. A correspondent of the *Basumatî* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April says that there is probability of water-scarcity in Maju, Burul, Santoshbati and other villages on both sides of the Kananadi in the Howrah district. The District Magistrate is requested to issue orders for

the supply of water in the Kananadi.

55. A correspondent of the same paper complains that the new municipal assessment in Jagaddal, Athpur and Naihati villages in the Bhatpara Municipality at 11 per cent. on the annual house-rent instead of the assessment per head as before, has nearly quadrupled the amount of the tax. The new system is unworkable in villages. Petitions to the Chairman, the District Magistrate and the Divisional Commissioner have been made in vain. It is to be hoped His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor will take notice of the matter.

56. A correspondent of the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April reports great suffering from water-scarcity in the villages of Jaynagar and Taranagar in the 24-Parganas district. There are no good tanks or reservoirs of water in the locality.

57. The *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 21st April draws attention to the Sanitation in the suburbs of Calcutta. extremely insanitary condition of the suburbs of Calcutta. Reference is first made to the existence of holes and tanks in these places, into which

during the rainy season is drained the sewage from the nearest privies. Yet the local population are compelled by necessity to use for various purposes water even so contaminated. Soiled clothes are often washed in this water, and they necessarily then become carriers of disease and death. Attention is next drawn to the condition of the majority of privies, many of which it is alleged are so built as completely to exclude light and air. The municipal mehters again in many cases, after cleansing a privy, empty the sewage into the nearest hole or drain if they find one convenient. Complaint is also made of the conduct of these mehters in depositing the clearings from the cutcha

SANTI,
March 28th, 1905.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O ANANDA
BASAR PATRIKA,
April 20th, 1905.

DAILY HITAVADI,
April 20th, 1905.

HITAVADI,
April 21st, 1905.

BASUMATI,
April 22nd, 1905.

BASUMATI.

BANGAVASI,
April 22nd, 1905.

SOLTAN,
April 21st, 1905.

drains on the roadside and in allowing dead cats, mice and the like to rot for days together on the public streets.

DAILY HITAVADI,
April 25th, 1905.

58. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 25th April says that though it is some time since Mr. Tremearne called the attention of the Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality and the Lieutenant-Governor to the question of purifying filthy tanks with the aid of copper sulphate and the Chairman promised a report from the Health Officer, and although three weeks have elapsed since Mr. Tremearne reminded the Chairman of his unfulfilled promise, no report has yet been forthcoming from the Health Officer. This shows how keen is the interest the authorities take in the health of the poor rate-payers. Will not His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor take steps to bring such public officers to a sense of their duty?

59. The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 22nd April complains that the condition of the Bagnan pound, to which attention was more than once drawn, shows no improvement.

The Bagnan pound in Howrah.
The *Birbhum Varis* [Birbhum] of the 22nd April notices a complaint recently made by a correspondent in the columns of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* newspaper to the effect that taxes are being assessed in the Santipur

Municipality according to the whims of the assessors and not according to the law. For instance, taxes on privies are often fixed at a larger amount than taxes on houses. In some cases, again, the actual rent of a house is being arbitrarily taken at a high figure in order to increase the tax proportionately.

HOWRAH HITAISHI,
April 22nd, 1905.

BIRBHUM VARIS,
March 22nd, 1905.

Allegations against the Santipur
Municipality.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

SANDHYA,
April 20th, 1905.

61. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 20th April publishes a number of letters from certain *mahajans* and traders of Midnapore, all complaining of the losses they sustain in the value of their goods and merchandise in the course of their transit by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway between Calcutta and Midnapore by thefts by the railway employés. It is alleged that in every *chalan* the value of goods actually delivered by the Company is less than the value of the goods actually sent by amounts varying from twenty to a hundred rupees.

HOWRAH HITAISHI,
April 22nd, 1904.

Allegations against the Station-
master of Bagnan, Bengal-Nagpur
Railway.

HOWRAH HITAISHI.

62. The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 22nd April complains that the oppressive practices of Sasi Bhushan Ghose, Station-master of Bagnan, Bengal-Nagpur Railway, are again on the increase. He had been a little quiet for some time past, but now shows signs of relapsing into his old habits.

HOWRAH HITAISHI.

63. The same paper draws attention to the necessity of putting up printed notices in the new joint platform of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway and East Indian Railway at Howrah, in order to indicate to intending passengers the destination and true route of each particular train which happens to be drawn up along the platforms at any particular time.

DAILY HITAVADI,
April 22nd, 1905

64. The same paper draws attention to the inconvenience which has been caused to office people whose hours of business terminate at 2 o'clock on Saturday by the recent change in the time of departure from Howrah of the Machada local train (Bengal-Nagpur Railway) on that day of the week from 4-17 to 6-3.

65. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April writes:—

The new timing of trains on the East Indian Railway. The East Indian Railway authorities have made a number of alterations in the timing of their trains from the 1st April last. The train which hitherto used to leave Howrah at 8-30 p.m. and run up to Bandel, runs only as far as Sheoraphuli under the new arrangement, to the great inconvenience of a certain number of passengers. This train used mostly to be travelled in by shop-keepers in Calcutta, of whom a large number are residents of Chander-nagore, Bhadreswar, &c. These shop-keepers are now compelled to close their shops, to their loss, at 7 o'clock when it is still evening. Then, again, passengers

to Chandernagore can, it is true, avail themselves of the 8 o'clock train, but that train is always overcrowded. For passengers to all stations above Sheoraphuli, except Chandernagore and Bandel, the next train after the 7-30 train is the 11-30 train—an interval of full four hours. We suggest again, as we did on many previous occasions, the desirability of running another train to Bandel some time about 9 or 9-35 P.M.

(h)—General.

66. The *Sukrid* [Noakhali] of the 18th April suggests the names of Babus

Suggested names for two vacant Honorary Magistracies in Noakhali.

Kaniswar Guha Ray Chowdhury, zamindar of Dattapara, and Krishna Kumar Chowdhury, zamindar of Mahammadpur, as two worthy choices for filling up the vacancies which now exist in the

ranks of the local Honorary Magistrates.

67. The *Rangpur Vartavaha* [Rangpur] of the 14th April complains that Maulvi Abdul Malek, Income-tax Deputy Collector

Income-tax assessment in Rangpur.

of the place, seems determined to bring under the operation of the tax all those who were generously

granted exemption by the Viceroy on the occasion of the King's Coronation.

68. The same paper wants to know why the Postmaster of the Nawabganj Bazar post office used to keep his clock half-an-hour too fast and refuse money-orders at half past three o'clock.

A postal complaint.

SUKRID,
April 18th, 1905.

RANGPUR
VARTAVAH,
April 14th, 1905.

RANGPUR
VARTAVAH.

DAILY HITAVADI,
April 25th, 1905.

69. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 25th April, writing from Jamalpur, Mymensingh, deplores the hard lot of Postmasters, postal clerks and postal peons, who are paid very poorly and have to work not less than ten to twelve hours a day. The pay of Postmasters and clerks is not only disproportionate to the hard work expected of them, but also to the heavy responsibility imposed on their shoulders. The correspondent suggests that the pay of clerks, branch Postmasters and inferior Sub-Postmasters should be Rs. 30, that of paid probationers Rs. 20, of a postman Rs. 15, 12 or 10 according to the class of the office to which he belongs. Each telegraph messenger should be paid Rs. 9.

70. In noticing the remarks on the Native Press which appear in the Bengal Administration Report for 1903-04, the

The Press and the Government.

Sanjivani [Calcutta] of the 20th April writes:—

SANJIVANI,
April 20th, 1905.

Editors of newspapers are not omniscient, so that it is not impossible for them to be often mistaken. But then we make bold to say that they do not attack English officials of Government without warrant. It appears from these remarks that His Honour bears no good-will towards the Press. But all the same we suggest to His Honour that when allegations are made against an official by any newspaper, an inquiry should be made into those allegations, to which the Editor of the newspaper in question should be admitted. By the adoption of such a procedure the truth will be sifted to the bottom and the Editor, if he finds himself in the wrong, can make adequate efforts at redress. Will His Honour kindly adopt this suggestion?

71. Referring to the notice of the native papers in Bengal in the Bengal Administration Report for 1903-04, the *Bangavasi*

Criticism of the native papers in the Bengal Administration Report.

[Calcutta] of the 22nd April says that the tone of the Native Press seems to have displeased the

authorities, and it is for this reason that the following finds a place in the report:—

"The Press as a whole criticized the action of Government and its officers unfavourably; and in too many instances exhibited the defects of exaggeration and lack of sobriety and restraint which have so often been alleged to be characteristic of the Press in Bengal."

It may be legitimately asked, wherein is this exaggeration to be found? Did the native papers exclusively find fault with the Government officers? Are the defects mentioned confined to the native papers alone? Is it impossible that the authorities have misinterpreted the motives of the writers in the Press? It is a matter for serious consideration whether the brief criticism of the Native Press in the Administration Report, unsupported as it is by concrete instances, will be productive of good or bad consequences.

BANGAVASI,
April 22nd, 1905.

BHARAT MITRA,
April 22nd, 1905.

72. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April, after quoting the paragraph contained in the Bengal Administration Report for 1903-04 on the tone and attitude of the Native Press, comments on the same as follows:—

The views as expressed in the paragraph quoted above show the love which Government bears towards the Native Press. It is very solicitous about improving the tone of the Native Press, but it does not look to its own attitude towards its subjects, as indicated by its persisting in the use of the term "native" as applied to them. Would it lose anything if it were to speak of them as Indians? To say that the Native Press speaks ill of Government officials with a view to increase the number of its subscribers might well become a mean-minded District Magistrate. It is unworthy of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. Most of the papers in India work at a loss. Yellow journalism, we are told, prevails in England and other European countries where sensational incidents are concocted to earn money. The evil has not reached this country as yet. The Indian papers are the first to acknowledge the good work of an official, but, of course, they fearlessly criticize his high-handed and arbitrary doings when occasion requires, and then never with pleasure but always with great regret, the reason being that there is none other to sympathize with the sufferings of the people of this unfortunate country.

Government has allowed no means by which the wrongs committed by the officials may be known and redressed. Should something like it be devised, native papers would consider their burdens lightened to some extent. The native papers have felt even more pain in criticizing the doings of the officials than the Bengal Government has felt in reading of them. Pity there is none to appreciate this.

It is not often seen that Government ignores the hue and cry of the native papers against the officials; nay, it has been found that now and then it supports them. This discourages the papers, but when they again see their countrymen in trouble they cannot help noticing the same. The higher authorities do not seem to take any notice of the wrongs committed by their subordinates. Can the Lieutenant-Governor point out one single instance in which he has, since his coming to this Province, personally enquired into the wrong-doings of his subordinates?

We regret to state that our Lieutenant-Governor has not the least independence in him. He considers it his bounden duty to carry out the orders of the Great Personage by whose favour he has attained to the present position. The Government of India spoke about the abolition of the competitive system of examinations. It is now an accomplished fact in Bengal. Lord Curzon has passed the new Universities Act, and it is being carried out in Bengal by the introduction of dialects, etc. The Viceroy spoke of exaggerations as indulged in by native papers. The same has now found a place in the Administration Report of Bengal.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
April 20th, 1905.

Mr. Carey.

73. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 20th April writes:—

A rumour is gaining currency that Mr. Lang, the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum, is about to be transferred and that the notorious Mr. Carey is to succeed him. Mr. Carey's virtues and achievements are already known to the Manbhum public. The acts of injustice and oppression committed by the officials in Manbhum are never brought to the notice of the outside world, the local public know nothing of political agitation and the ventilation of their grievances. By putting Mr. Carey in such a district the Bengal Government will practically keep him in a safe place. The Bengal Government shows particular ingenuity in keeping an oppressive Civilian in a place where he will be safe from public criticism. Government does not seem at present to be aware of the extent to which this policy is demoralizing the entire administrative machinery of the country. But disorganization can never continue unchecked in any country without producing effects the nature of which must be well known to all statesmen. It is our lot that the present time is one of supremacy for a narrow-minded set of public men. But we have hopes that this condition of affairs can never be permanent in our country, governed as it is by a just race like the English.

74. Referring to the transfer of Dr. Booth, Director of Public Instruction, Assam, to Bengal, and the proposal that Mr. J. H. Dr. Booth's successor. Corkery, Private Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam, will continue to do the work of the Director in addition to his own duties until a successor is appointed, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 20th April enquires whether the work of the Director is so easy as to enable one officer simultaneously to perform the duties both of the Director and the Private Secretary.

DAILY HITAVADI,
April 20th, 1905.

75. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 20th April writes:—

The Survey Department. It is notified that an examination of the Survey Department of the Government of India will be held on the 20th August next. There are 15 vacancies to be competed for, of which not more than four are open to Indians. Indians are incompetent even for the work of *amsins*!

SANJIVANI,
April 20th, 1905.

76. The same paper writes:—

Government as an authority on questions of descent. We notice that in the Bengal Annual Administration Report for 1903-04, the Maharaja of Cooch Bihar is said to be of Tibetan or Dravidian stock and the Raja of Hill Tippera of the Indo-Chinese stock. Government is already our director in many departments of life. Henceforth it is to fix even the particular race from which its subjects are descended.

SANJIVANI.

77. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 20th April writes:—

Dishonesty in the Government Treasury in Chittagong. We have already reported the theft of a sum of about Rs. 1,100 from the local Government treasury on the 3rd April last. Strange to say,

JYOTI,
April 20th, 1905.

no regular inquiry was held into that theft. Anyhow a fresh mystery has been added. The other day a stamp vendor named Ram Kumar Chowdhury of Satkania came to Chittagong to deposit the price of his stamps, carrying with him a note for Rs. 1,000 belonging to Babu Durga Charan Chowdhury, a vakil of the same place. The number and other specifications of the note had been duly entered in the *chalan*. At the treasury one of the *poddars* took the note, and drawing his pen through the entries about the number, etc., of the note in the *chalan*, wrote in its place "Cash." This incident in connexion with the note took place on the same day on which the theft referred to above was committed. Afterwards the note in question was found to have been deposited in the treasury against the name of one Jatra Mohan Sen. Contractor Golak Chandra Bhattacharya meanwhile brought these facts, of which he was cognisant, to the notice of Deputy Magistrate Prafulla Sanker Sen, the Treasury officer. Prafulla Babu immediately summoned Jatra Mohan, who deposed that he had not deposited any 1,000-rupee note and had not put his signature to any such note either. The *poddar* referred to previously has explained that a merchant had requested him for a 1,000 rupee note and that was the reason why he kept the note at first, but that later on, finding that that merchant did not ask for the note, he had got it deposited in the treasury against Jatra Mohan Sen's name. It does not appear which of these statements are correct and which are not. How many strange incidents have come off in connexion with the treasury in the course of the past one year alone!

78. Referring to the case of Mr. W. G. Shout, a Deputy Magistrate of Hooghly, *versus* a *daryi* (tailor), the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st April says that the case has this novelty that it has been revived after a compromise. Is there nobody to bring the Deputy Magistrate to his senses?

HITAVADI,
April 21st, 1905.

Mr. W. G. Shout, a Deputy Magistrate of Hooghly. 79. Referring to the Delhi Darbar Memorial Garden, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st April says that Lord Curzon's heart may leap with joy at the prospect of having a garden, but to the Indian it means nothing but sheer waste of money.

HITAVADI,
April 21st, 1905.

The Delhi Darbar Memorial Garden. 80. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st April says that, most probably, after the office of the Board of Revenue has been removed to the Writers' Buildings, its Hon'ble Members will summer in Darjeeling. This will entail an increase of expenditure in the shape of

HITAVADI,
April 21st, 1905.

The residence of the Members of the Revenue Board in Darjeeling.

travelling allowances, etc. The writer does not know of any instance of Government's work having suffered owing to the Members of the Board not having gone to Darjeeling in summer. It is therefore hoped that the Lieutenant-Governor will see that public money is not unnecessarily spent for the purpose.

MIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
April 21st, 1905.

Allegations against an employee
of the Court of Wards in Satkhira
in Khulna.

81. The *Mir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 21st April notices certain complaints against Umes Chandra Banerjee, the naib of the Kaliganj Cutcherry under the Court of Wards in Satkhira. It appears that this naib was on one occasion suspended as the result of an inquiry by the Collector of Khulna into allegations made against him in a petition by certain members of the poorer section of the local Musalman community. He has since been reinstated and is said to have begun his oppressions anew. The following case is given as an illustration. Recently he sent one of his servants to the shop of one Sefatulla Ghazi in the Kaliganj Bazar to buy half a maund of rice on credit. When the debt was actually paid up later on, it was paid up only in part and not in full. The shop-keeper was, however, too much afraid to ask for full payment. Anyhow when some days later the naib again asked for a supply of rice on credit, it was refused. Thereupon, the naib sent a number of *bukundazes* to arrest the shop-keeper. As it was, it was only by timely flight that the shop-keeper could save himself on that occasion.

MIR-O-SUDHAKAR.

Babu Gopal Chandra Mukerjee, District Magistrate-designate of Faridpur.

82. The same paper notices the recent appointment of Babu Gopal Chandra Mukerjee, Deputy Magistrate of Alipur, to act as District Magistrate of Faridpur, in the following terms :—

Gopal Baba enjoys among Deputy Magistrates an exceptional reputation among the public as an experienced and just judicial officer. We are very glad to see that Government has recognized the merits of one of its most competent servants. In every station that Gopal Baba has gone to he has earned the respect and love of the local public.

DAINIK CHANDRIKA,
April 21st, 1905.

A recent case in Rajshahi.

83. The *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 21st April writes :—

Recently a well-known and highly respectable zamindar of Rajshahi was arrested by the police as the murderer of a local mukhtar. The trial was held at the Alipur Sessions, as a result of which the zamindar was acquitted. There was not one witness who spoke anything against him. The whole basis of the charge was that the zamindar was known to be on bad terms with the mukhtar when the latter was alive. We appeal to Government to take steps to prevent scandals like these occurring again. We remain expectant to see what steps Government will take to compensate the zamindar in the present case, whose sufferings have been a hundredfold greater than those of Mr. Rolt.

BASUMATI,
April 22nd, 1905.

84. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April says :—

The Town Hall protest meeting. Everybody knew that the attempt to send the resolutions passed in the Town Hall protest meeting at Calcutta under the Presidentship of Dr. Rash Behari Ghosh to the Secretary of State for India through the Government of India would fail. Lord Curzon, however, need not have shown this weakness in refusing to send the resolutions to the Secretary of State. The latter would never have criticized His Excellency's policy unfavourably. The matter will surely form the subject of an interrogation in Parliament, but what reply can we expect but that the Secretary of State is unwilling to interfere in the matter ?

HITAVARTA,
April 23rd, 1905.

85. With reference to the refusal of the Government of India to forward the resolutions of the Town Hall protest meeting to the Secretary of State for India, the *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 23rd April says that the Government have brought on stigma on their good name by this refusal.

The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April, in noticing the same, observes that unless there be a ruler who will listen to such resolutions, nothing can be expected. If he does not mean to hear, who can make him hear ?

86. The *Basumatî* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April highly praises Lord and Lady Curzon for their magnanimous sympathy with the sufferers from the recent earthquake. His Excellency's conduct in the matter has been

Lord Curzon praised for his sympathy with the sufferers from the earthquake.

BASUMATI,
April 22nd, 1905

really worthy of his position. His letter to the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab is full of the milk of human kindness. Lord Curzon is really an extraordinary man. At times, when delivering speeches, he can wound the feelings of a whole nation, and does not even shrink from having recourse to exaggeration for the sake of rhetoric. He is second to none in conceit and is extremely impatient of criticism. But when a great calamity overtakes a large section of humanity, he casts off these blemishes and tries his best to relieve the suffering. Herein lie Lord Curzon's greatness and singularity. Many people may impute to him interested motives for his expression of sympathy with the sufferers from the earthquake, but the writer firmly believes that it was really an expression of the grief which he felt for them.

87. Referring to the Government's report to the Secretary of State for India regarding the starting of a relief fund in England for the benefit of those who suffered from the recent earthquake, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta]

The Government report on the recent earthquake.

BHARAT MITRA,
April 22nd, 1905.

of the 22nd April says that whatever might be the charges by the people of India against the Government, they do not attribute the recent earthquake to it. Lord Curzon should not therefore have felt ashamed in asking England's help for the unfortunate sufferers from the earthquake.

88. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April writes:—

Englishmen's dealings with Indians not marked by truthfulness.

Whatever boast Lord Curzon may make as to the truthfulness of Western nations in Convocation speeches, we have always noticed a contrary spirit in the conduct of the officials in this country. The

DAILY HITAVADI,
April 22nd, 1905.

English might be a truthful people in their relations with other nations, but in their dealings with India their truthfulness is rarely a prominent characteristic. Whether in the matter of keeping faith in the treaties with Native Princes, or in that of the carrying out of the promises of Parliament, or of the late Queen's Proclamation, or in that of the just appropriation of the Famine Fund or the Road Cess Fund, or in that of maintaining intact the Permanent Settlement,—in every one of them our rulers have set a very fine example of truthfulness indeed. English love of truth is not an unknown thing to the Indian people. So Lord Curzon with his reminiscences of Korean travel might well have spared himself his bombast on that topic.

Speaking on the question of the employment of Indians in the higher offices of State, Lord Curzon on one occasion expressed the opinion that Indians do not possess the strength of mind necessary for responsible offices. This implies that in the higher offices only such Englishmen are appointed as possess superior qualifications. But it is our misfortune that the very officials whose praise is so often heard sung by the Viceroy in the Council Chamber very often give evidence of meanness and want of faith in their dealings with the Indian populace.

89. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 23rd April has the following:—

The respective grants for police reform and for education.

The *Pioneer* of Allahabad has found fault with the Government of India for proposing to spend

1½ crores of rupees in increasing the strength and salaries of the Indian police and only 80 thousand for the education of the people.

If the salaries of the police officers are increased, other departments will try to get the pay of their employés increased also. The *Pioneer* would like to see the Government spend more on education than on the police. We are at one with the *Pioneer* in this matter. Education improves the character of its recipients, but our Government is ruining the character of the people by restricting education. Is this right policy?

HITAVARTA.
April 23rd, 1905.

90. Hearing that the offices of the local Board of Revenue are going

The removal of the office of the Board of Revenue to the Writers' Buildings.

to be removed to the new block in the Writers' Buildings, the same paper observes that there may be facility in transacting business if all the departments that are under the Lieutenant-Governor of

Bengal are located in one building, but thinks the removal would entail extra

HITAVARTA.

expenditure, as now the Members of the Board would also be going to Darjeeling and be entitled to get allowances.

HITAVARTA.

91. The same paper has heard that the Lieutenant-Governor is again going to hold a Conference, similar to the one he held last year, of his Divisional Commissioners, and it is proposed that the District Judges will henceforth have to work under the supervision of these Commissioners and that the local High Court has given its consent to the proposal. If this be the fact, it is really a source of anxiety to the public. The Lieutenant-Governor ought to make the facts known to the public.

HITAVARTA.

92. Referring to the Rolt case, the same paper observes as follows :—

The Rolt case.

If it be admitted that Mr. Rolt is quite innocent, would anybody then explain to us why he was put to such trouble? If this oppression was really *mala fide*, what punishment has been meted out to him who was the cause of it? The judgment speaks of Mr. Rolt being innocent, but nothing about the conduct of the Government officers. Has Government acted fairly in this case? Even the Government of the Zulus would feel ashamed of doing such things. This is civilization. Balgangadhar Tilak was also innocent, but having incurred the displeasure of the officials he had to suffer much. Even an appeal to the Privy Council in England availed him nothing. Colour alone determines the justice or injustice of a case in these days.

DAILY HITAVADI,
April 23rd, 1905.

93. Referring to the fear which is entertained in some quarters that probably Bihar would be detached from Bengal for the purpose of lightening the work of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd April says that it will be a matter of no small regret if the connection of Bihar with Bengal, which has existed for about fifteen hundred years, is now severed under the enlightened British rule. It is to be hoped that Lord Curzon will earn the gratitude of the people of this Province by giving up his partition scheme.

DAILY HITAVADI.
April 25th, 1905.

94. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 25th April says that in 1877-78, it was privately ruled by the Government that Government and the District Boards the Government should bear one third the cost of collection of the Road and Public Works cesses and

that the District Boards should bear the remaining two-thirds. Shortly after Government found that its share of the cost was increasing with the increase that was taking place in the realized amount of the cesses, and it withdrew the rule and fixed the lump sum of Rs. 46,800 as its annual share of the cost of collection. This practice continued till the year 1899. But in that year the native press entered a sharp protest against the injustice of the arrangement, which, in reply to an interpellation in the Bengal Council, the then Financial Secretary was constrained to admit. Government also agreed to pay in future one-third the cost of collection, as agreed in 1877-78. The agitators had also demanded that Government should refund to the District Boards Rs. 7,00,000 as the difference of the amount actually paid by it and the amount it ought to have paid under the one-third rule, and that it should in future pay one-half the cost of collection. But Government refused to do either of these. It refused to pay one-half the cost on the ground that if the salaries of the Government officers who devoted their time to the work of the District Boards were taken into account, it would be found that Government actually paid more than one-half the cost of collection. Was the reply worthy of the Government, the *md bdp* of the people? The writer believes that if the Government pleases to sever the connection of highly-paid civilians with the Boards, neither would the people's money be spent on objects not approved by the people nor would Government have opportunities of burdening the Boards with the support of civilians. But will Government take such a course?

After having for the last thirty years thus misspent the bulk of the Road Cess fund on various objects, Government has this year made to the District Boards a gift of twelve and a half lakhs of rupees. For this poor gift, loud praises of the Government's uncommon generosity have been heard from the mouths of all, from the Viceroy to the Members of the Bengal Council. But the public will see what return the Government is making for what it has taken. The air is filled with praises for this! What next?

DAILY HITAVADI.

95. The same paper says that the people of Khagru in the Murshidabad district having petitioned Mr. Hallifax, Magistrate of the district, for permission to hold *nagar sankirtans* in Gorabazar and Ukilpara till 11 P.M. every night throughout the holy month of *Baisakh*, the Magistrate passed the following order :—

"I decline to allow noises after 10 P.M. as a rule. This petition asks permission to make noises for a month on end every night up to 11 P.M., which permission cannot be given."

The people of Bengal are a peace-loving and law-abiding people. They will, as a matter of course, carry out Mr. Hallifax's order. But one may ask, what led this worthy officer to interfere with the religious beliefs and observances of the subject people, non-interference with which has all along been a praiseworthy feature of British rule? Many European Magistrates came to Murshidabad before Mr. Hallifax, but none of them ever showed such keenness of judgment as he has done in this instance.

Mr. Hallifax's courtesy to the people of the country is also sufficiently shown by his describing *sankirtans* as "noises." It may be that, being a Christian himself, he has no respect for other religions. But he ought to have kept the feeling to himself, and not wounded Hindu susceptibilities by giving to holy *sankirtans* the epithet of "noises."

It is hoped the Lieutenant-Governor will soon bring this officer to his senses.

III.—LEGISLATION.

96. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st April hopes that Government

A suggestion made by the Englishman. will not take up the extremely selfish suggestion made by the *Englishman* newspaper that owners of

land in the European quarter of Calcutta should be compelled by legislation to sell it for the purpose of the construction of good houses for the European residents of the town.

97. The same paper says that the proposed jute legislation will have the effect of increasing the value of jute and reducing its cultivation in the country. Interference on the part of the Government or the merchant community with agricultural matters has always been productive of hardship to cultivators.

98. The *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 21st April expresses cordial

Rumoured legislation for the education of wards of encumbered estates under Government management. approval of the proposal which it hears is under contemplation by Government to introduce legislation with a view to provide education for the sons of those zamindars whose estates, being encumbered

with debt, have been brought under Government management. But it hopes that legislation will not make stricter provisions about the making over of the charge of the estate to these wards.

99. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st April referring to the rumoured

The police reform. police legislation asks, what means do the authorities think of adopting in order to check the spirit of

oppression and corruption in the police? Unless that spirit is checked, no amount of legislation, however stringent, will reform the department.

100. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April says that in going to

The proposed Police Act. make a law for the reformation of the police in India, Government should remember that the

whole country has protested against its Resolution on the recommendations of the Police Commission. It is desirable therefore that Government should carefully weigh all the objections raised before proceeding to legislate.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

101. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 20th April writes :—

Recent examples of the attitude of Government towards Native States in Bengal. Government is in the habit of taking Magistrates to task if they fail to keep up what is in its opinion a due percentage of convictions in the cases brought before them for trial. We notice

HITAVADI,
April 21st, 1905.

HITAVADI.

DAINIK CHANDRIKA,
April 21st, 1905.HITAVADI,
April 21st, 1905.BANGAVASI,
April 22nd, 1905.SANJIVANI,
April 20th, 1905.

that it has recently begun to adopt a similar attitude towards Native States as well. For instance, in regard to the administration of criminal justice in Tippera, it has recently expressed the opinion that the work done in this connection shows great improvement, but that the number of acquittals is still too large.

The nine Tributary States in Chota Nagpur hitherto used to be supervised by the Divisional Commissioner. But a civilian was specially deputed for this purpose in the winter of 1903-04. How far the visit of a civilian to a Native State is welcome to the Princes concerned, the Princes alone can say. The effort to bring the Native States under the control of the Government is being made with increasing vigour.

BHARAT MITRA,
April 22nd, 1905.

Government criticism upon the
criminal administration of the
Tippera State.

102. Commenting upon the Government's criticism on the criminal administration of the Tippera State, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April remarks that the Native States are gradually being deprived of their independence.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

BANGAVASI,
April 22nd, 1905.

103. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April says that the frost and untimely rain have done considerable damage to the crops in many districts in Bengal, specially in Hooghly, Nadia and Murshidabad, in all of which the poor cultivators are already beginning to feel the approach of scarcity and distress. This is the time for the authorities to make careful enquiries into the real condition of the people and to make provision against the impending calamity.

HITAVARTA,
April 23rd, 1905.

104. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 23rd April is glad to hear that the attention of the Government has been drawn to the state of things in the Central Provinces, the Punjab and Bombay owing to failure of crops, and in Northern India owing to the recent earthquake.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

PRATIJNA,
April 12th, 1905.

Who is to blame for misgovern-
ment in a country?

105. The *Pratijna* [Calcutta] of the 12th April says that people are really governed not by their King, but by their own countrymen to whom the powers of the king are, by successive delegation, transferred. The King is not, therefore, to blame if people are oppressed by these countrymen of theirs. This point should be kept in mind when criticizing the Government of India.

CHARU MIRI,
April 20th, 1905.

106. The *Charu Miri* [Mymensingh] of the 20th April says that large numbers of people are flocking into Mymensingh from all parts of the country in order to join the Provincial Conference to be held there. The town is filled with new life and joy. Mymensingh people are conspicuous for their eagerness to serve their country on every occasion.

CHARU MIRI.

107. In addressing the visitors of the Provincial Conference held at Mymensingh, the same paper says:—

The Provincial Conference at Mymensingh. The people are oppressed with heavy taxation; the indigenous arts and industries of the country are extinct; the look of displeasure cast on us by our rulers has grieved and alarmed us.

Our King is generous, but the policy of our Government is narrow and ungenerous. In most cases the true picture of this ungenerous policy cannot reach the King through the complex administrative machinery.

The European officials in this country forget their national greatness for the sake of prestige. Led by false ideas, they can place no confidence in the people of this country. We have incurred their displeasure by pointing out the reprehensible character of their administrative policy, but they are unable to fathom the real feeling in our hearts.

The indissoluble tie by which we are bound with the British Government is an object of glory to us. Whatever Lord Curzon may think of our truthfulness, this is a sincere truth which comes from our heart.

Lord Curzon is at liberty to say that Eastern nations hide truths under enigmas. But the art of giving an impenetrable covering to political designs belongs to Western civilization alone.

Although the Indians have taken their politics from Westerners, they have not adopted the diplomacy of the latter. Their politics are confined to honest prayers made with honest hearts.

Every ruler, who desires to please his subjects, is careful to see that contentment prevails among the vast majority of them, that they gradually rise in prosperity, and that no blemish is cast on his rule by acts of oppression and injustice.

These are the objects which lie at the root of all public agitation in India. Loyalty is a religion which the Indians inherit from their fathers; the King is a god to them.

They want to see this god really filling the place of a god. Agitations carried on by the Indians are always directed against those short-sighted acts of officials which cast a blemish on this divine position. Those who smell sedition in such agitations commit a stupendous mistake.

Indians are easily pleased. Small acts of kindness and generosity fill their hearts with gratitude. Government can please them very easily. But we are unable to make out what unknown cause leads the Government to follow an ungenerous policy in respect of them.

England alone is capable of assuming the responsibility of governing a vast dominion like India. And by assuming this responsibility the English Sovereign had given evidence of his supreme fitness for the task. The greatness of the English nation is reflected in every line of the well-known Proclamation of the late Queen-Empress. Those who have shown disregard for the Proclamation have only cast a blot on the good name of their nation.

The manner in which Government is showing indifference to the wants and grievances of this country, shows that nothing but violent agitation will set matters right.

The real condition of the country will be discussed in the Provincial Conference to be held at Mymensingh. Nothing will be exaggerated; no unnecessary thing will be discussed.

The resolutions have been drafted setting forth the wants, grievances, circumstances and aspirations of the people of this country. Not one of them can be disregarded without leaving the people in some sort of misery. Government will surely see this if it is not blinded by false notions of prestige.

108. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st April says that in Mymensingh *bhats* (heralds) are drawing the attention of the local people to the Congress and the Provincial Conference by singing songs about them. The Executive Committee of the Conference are freely distributing to the public nice-looking tracts explaining the objects of the Conference.

109. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 24th April notices as follows:—

The recent Provincial Conference at Mymensingh. the proceedings of the first day of the recent sittings of the Provincial Conference at Mymensingh :—

The doors of the *pandal* which had been specially erected for the Conference were opened punctually at 12 o'clock. A large crowd of visitors and delegates immediately streamed inside the richly decorated *pandal*. Every face shone with exultation and eagerness. In spite of the inclemencies of the weather, no less than 5,000 people mustered inside that *pandal*, which was packed to its utmost capacity.

The delegates from Calcutta, Burdwan, Pabna, Faridpur, Sylhet, Barisal, and other places, as well as Babu Surendra Nath Banerji and the President-elect, arrived at Mymensingh on the morning of the 22nd last. There was an extraordinarily large crowd at the railway station to receive them. The Musalman community of Mymensingh made special preparations for the welcoming of the President-elect.

As soon as Babu Surendra Nath and the other delegates alighted from the train, the waiting crowd sent up a succession of cheers which filled the skies. Student-volunteers lined the entire route from the railway station to the

HITAVADI,
April 21st, 1905.

DAILY HITAVADI,
April 24th, 1905.

temporary quarters where the President-elect put up. The journey of the delegates to their quarters from the station was accompanied with one long succession of loud cheers from thousands of Hindu and Musalman throats. Such enthusiasm was never before witnessed in the district.

SANDEYA,
April 25th, 1905.

110. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 25th April writes:—

Zamindars and the Provincial Conference.

Zamindars participated with great zeal in the proceedings of the recent Provincial Conference at Mymensingh. It is no doubt a matter for congratulation that zamindars are beginning to pluck up courage.

MOHAMMADI,
April 21st, 1905.

111. The *Mohammadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st April reproduces the Bengali speech which was delivered on the 8th April last by Babu Kshetra Nath Bandyapadhyay Kavya Kantha

at a special meeting of the Baniapukur Free Reading Club, Calcutta, in which the speaker assigned (1) foreign rule, (2) free trade and (3) deterioration of agriculture and other industries as the causes of India's poverty. The speaker said that famines under Hindu rule occurred once in fifty, hundred or two hundred years, that they became more frequent under Muhammadan rule, but not so frequent as they have become under British rule.

BIRBHUM VARTA,
April 22nd, 1905.

112. The *Birbhumi Varta* [Birbhumi] of the 22nd April has the following:—

Lord Curzon's administration.

The period of the present Viceroy's administration will ever remain a most memorable period in the history of New India. This administration may yet come in for its share of praise, just as it is now incurring only blame. For never before as now were witnessed such bold utterances on the part of the Press, such activity among the country's leaders, such vigour of protest from the public. Its repressive policy must be said in one sense to be helping in the welding of Indians into a nation.

HOWRAH HITAISHI,
April 22nd, 1905.

113. In a review of the past Bengali year, the *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 22nd April says:—

The national awakening of India

By Lord Curzon's favour our national feeling received as much stimulus as it possibly could receive and turn to good purpose in a dependent, down-trodden, weak, impoverished and helpless country like India during the short period of one year. His Excellency has opened the eyes of many of us in many matters. By blocking the path of an alien education he diverted our energies to seek the treasures contained in our own national store. He disabused our mind of a serious mistake by throwing off the masks of equality, honesty and generosity from the face of Western politics, casting wistful glances, pregnant with envy and contempt, towards poor India, and making speeches of doubtful purpose. Through his grace the Hindus and Musalmans of this country found, more than once, opportunities to unite together and discuss matters of common interest. Through his unbounded grace we could, as the last resource left to us, forget our mutual quarrels and animosities and think over the means of delivering our country from the hands of an alien governor, whose object it is to drain the country of its resources. And it is a matter of great satisfaction that for this reason there did not occur any important case of quarrel between Hindus and Musalmans during the last year.

BASUMATI,
April 22nd, 1905.

114. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April expresses its deep gratitude to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress for her sympathy with the sufferers from the earthquake.

BASUMATI.

115. The same paper disagrees with Mr. Alfred Webb in his opinion that Lord Curzon has done a service to the Indians by abusing them in his Convocation speech, as it will stir them to political activity, just as similar

treatment has stimulated the political activity of the Irish people. We, says the writer, are loyal subjects and like to hear sweet words from our Viceroy. We are Indians, and not Irishmen.

BANGAVASI,
April 22nd, 1905.

116. Referring to the statement published in a London newspaper that Lord Curzon would be made an Earl on the occasion of the Prince of Wales's visit to India, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April writes:—

The prospect of a higher title to Lord Curzon.

It would be a happy thing, no doubt, if the report prove true.

URIYA PAPERS.

117. The Rautrapur correspondent of the *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 15th April states that rinderpest raged in Rautrapur for a considerable period and that a large number of cattle died of the disease.

Prospects of the mango crop.

GARJATBASINI,
April 15th, 1905.

118. The same correspondent says that the prospect of the mango crop is disappointing.

119. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 8th April is glad to state that the Raja of Surangi always uses the newly adopted Uriya national pagri and takes advantage of every opportunity to encourage its use among his officers and men.

The new Uriya national pagri
and the Raja of Surangi.

GARJATBASINI.

GARJATBASINI,
April 8th, 1905.

120. The same paper says that what Simla and Darjeeling are to the India and Bengal Government and what Kapilas is to the Chief of Dhenkanal, Balajhar is to the Chief of Talcher. The later Chief has made up his mind to use Balajhar as his summer residence.

GARJATBASINI.

121. The same paper says that a tiger is committing depredations in the neighbourhood of Talcher gark, and that it is expected that the Chief of that State will bag it after his return from Balajhar.

A tiger in the neighbourhood
of Talcher.

GARJATBASINI.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,
April 18th, 1905.

122. The *Samvad Vavika* [Balasore] of the 13th April says that a few showers of rain fell there in the last week.

The weather in Balasore.

123. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 12th April states that the temperature is steadily rising, though it is at times softened by occasional showers of rain.

The weather in Balasore.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
April 12th, 1905.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

124. The same paper is glad to acknowledge the receipt of one copy of An Uriya Agricultural Primer. the Uriya Agricultural Primer in three parts, translated from the original work of Mr. Nitya Gopal Mukhopadhyaya of the Agricultural Department, Bengal, and to observe that the book is admirably suited to the requirements of vernacular schools in Orissa. The writer thanks His Highness the Maharaja of Mayurbhanj for his patronage and zeal in superintending the publication of this important and useful book.

125. The Manager of the Puri temple having notified to the Hindu public that the god Jagannath will be transformed into god Raghunath on the 27th of April current, considerable correspondence is going on in the columns of the vernacular papers for the week Transformation of the god Jagannath of Puri into Raghunath.

ALL THE URIYA
PAPERS.

under report regarding the procedure that is to be adopted in this important ceremony. The significance of the ceremony may be gathered from the fact that god Jagannath assumed the appearance of god Raghunath only thrice in the history of the temple and that, as a consequence, innumerable streams of pilgrims will run down to the Puri coast, thereby straining every nerve of the police, the Municipality and the temple establishment, all of whom will no doubt be overburdened with work.

126. The *Star of Utkal* [Cuttack] of the 15th April notices an instance of outrage committed on a woman's modesty at the Kharagpur railway station, and observes that the abuse of power and confidence from which such outrages proceed should be rectified without any delay.

The Kharagpur railway outrage
case.

STAR OF UTKAL,
April 15th, 1905.

127. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 15th April states that there was no rain in the last week and that the sky was cloudy at times. The weather is reasonable.

The weather in Cuttack.

UTKALDIPICA,
April 15th, 1905.

Cholera in Cuttack.

UTKALDIPICA.

128. The same paper states that two men died of cholera in Uriya Bazar in the Cuttack town.

UTKALDIPAKA.

129. The same paper approves of the proceedings of the meeting held at Allahabad to protest against the objectionable

The recent Allahabad meeting of protest against Lord Curzon's policy and Convocation speech.

passages in the Viceroy's recent Convocation speech and the policy of Lord Curzon's Government, and supports the remark of the President that though

Lord Curzon by his exertions in connection with the preservation of the ancient monuments of India secured the gratitude of the Indian people, His Excellency miserably failed to pay proper attention to another monument of British India, namely, the class of educated Indians, who are brought into existence by the wise statesmanship of the Englishmen themselves.

UTKALDIPAKA.

The Mansingpatna dacoity case in Cuttack.

130. Referring to the notorious Mansingpatna dacoity case in Cuttack, the same paper suggests that Government should be so good as to pay damages to the two innocent men who had been wrongly convicted and un-

justly punished, and thereby secure the ends of justice and humanity alike.

UTKALDIPAKA.

The King's sympathy for the sufferers from the recent earthquake.

131. The same paper appreciates the sympathy which His Majesty the King-Emperor, together with other members of the Royal House, expressed for the people who suffered much from the earthquake that recently passed over Northern India, and hopes that this

sympathy will be followed by some substantial contributions towards the relief of the poor and the helpless.

UTKALDIPAKA.

The Viceroy's recent Budget speech.

132. In reviewing the last Budget speech of His Excellency the Viceroy, the same paper feels that His Excellency was silent on the equity of saddling India with the entire cost of the Tibet Mission, on the separation

of the judicial and executive functions vested in the same person, and on the extension of the principle of local self-government in India. His Excellency's arguments in favour of the enormous increase of military expenditure were not convincing, while his statements in connection with the appointment of Indians to the higher posts of trust and responsibility in the public service were disappointing.

ASSAM PAPERS.

PARIDARSAK,
April 15th, 1905.

133. The *Paridarsak* [Sylhet] of the 15th April writes:—

Items about the Education Department in Assam. It is a matter for congratulation that the pay of 1st grade Deputy Inspectors of Schools in Assam has recently been raised from Rs. 200 to Rs. 250

per mensem. We suggest to Government the desirability of a similar increase in the case of the 1st grade Head-masters of high schools in the Province.

There was a total strength of nine Inspecting Pandits in the Surma Valley and the posts of these officers have been abolished with effect from the 1st April last. We desire to draw the attention of Government to the desirability of providing for the holder of these posts other suitable employment.

Hitherto there used to be three Instructors in indigenous forms of exercise for the *pathsalas* in the Surma Valley, who had undergone a special course of training in that subject at Jubbulpur at Government expense. The posts of these three Instructors have been abolished. But considering the expense to which Government was put for their training, their services should have been retained. Will Government consider the advisability of adopting our suggestion about the re-employment of these three Instructors?

The same paper reports that a monster meeting was held in the evening of 7th April last in the Ratanmani Loknath Town Hall at the instance of Babus Sarada Charan Syam, M.A., B.L., Nagendra Nath Dutt, and Dr. Baikuntha Kumar Nandi to protest against the recent appointments in the inspecting staff of the Assam Education Department, under the reorganization scheme.

PARIDARSAK

134. The same paper publishes the following in English:—

Educational reforms. The Government of India was pleased to make a recurring grant of Rs. 1,00,000 as far back as 1902 for the improvement of education in Assam. Public school examinations having since been abolished, the Local Government considered the present staff of inspecting officers insufficient for holding

in situo examinations; but it could not up to date strengthen the inspecting staff, as the scheme submitted by it was not sanctioned earlier than January 1905. Now that the Secretary of State's sanction has arrived, it is free to act in the matter. But it is needless to say that all will depend upon a proper selection of the inspecting officers, who must henceforth be all trained and experienced teachers. The Bengal Government has a standing order for these appointments, and it was strictly adhered to when appointments were made for working the new scheme in December 1902. The qualifications required for the Sub-Inspectors by the order were—(1) They should be graduates or they must have passed the F. A., and served either in high schools in a subordinate capacity or in middle English schools as Head-masters for not less than three years. (2) They must be certified as successful teachers by the Divisional Inspector. (3) Their age must not exceed 25 years if not in Government service, etc., etc. Men of higher calibre were taken as Deputy Inspectors.

The scheme sanctioned for Assam embodies the proposals for 19 Deputy Inspectors, 14 Sub-Inspectors, besides 2 Inspectors. The existing scale consists of 23 Sub-Inspectors and 5 Deputy Inspectors; so that the post of 9 Sub-Inspectors will have to be abolished and 4 Deputy Inspectors appointed in addition to the 5 that already exist, or 9 of the Sub-Inspectors will have to be promoted to Deputy Inspectorships, and 5 more Deputy Inspectors appointed to get the required number of Deputy Inspectors. Of the 23 Sub-Inspectors, there is only one graduate, not even half a dozen of them have passed the F. A., and some have not even matriculated. If those of them who have been considered incompetent as Sub-Inspectors on previous occasions are promoted to Deputy Inspectorships, the efficiency of the service will, no doubt, be greatly deteriorated. The inspectional and instructional branches should not be considered as distinct from each other, at least for the purposes of promotions in the department. On the contrary, the inspectional branch should frequently be strengthened by the transfer of tried masters of high and middle schools. This was done in the past, and it has become still more necessary now by the abolition of the public school examinations.

If the Bengal standard of efficiency is required in Assam in making these new appointments, then and then only the inspecting staff will be found up to the mark. We earnestly pray in the interest of the poor schoolmasters who have a very hard lot, and in the interest of the rising generation whose education should be our first care, that the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner will be graciously pleased to keep the above suggestions in view in appointing Deputy and Sub-Inspectors for working the new scheme.

135. The same paper has the following article in English: —

The Education Department and
the Hon'ble Mr. Fuller.

In pursuance of the new scheme sanctioned by the Secretary of State for India for the reorganization of the Education Service of the Province, the

Government of Assam has made a number of appointments—1 Inspector for the Surma Valley and 19 Deputy Inspectors. From the prospects and emoluments held out to these officers the public were disposed to think that under the new scheme people of very superior calibre—men whose appointment would do credit to the Department—would be drawn into service.

Is it any wonder then that the public mind would be filled with exasperation when they find that this, like so many other fond expectations of theirs, has been dashed to pieces? Rai Shahib Promada Kumar Basu, who as Principal of the Murari Chand College was drawing a salary of Rs. 150, has been appointed to the post of the Inspector of Schools for the Surma Valley on a salary of Rs. 400 rising to Rs. 600. Without wishing to detract any the least credit from what is legitimately due to the Rai Shahib, we seek in vain for any the least distinction in his career whether in the University or as a Professor, which may mark him out as being fit for the honours and responsibilities of such a high and distinguished post.

In fact, it has come upon us as a surprise to hear that a man who passed his Entrance in the second division and after repeated failures could with difficulty pass through the University examinations to get a B. A. degree with a simple pass and who had, as if by luck, secured the M. A. degree, having occupied the last place among the successful candidates of the year—that such a man could be placed at the helm of education of two districts, including a district like Sylhet,

PARIDARSHAK,
April 15th, 1905.

on such a high salary! From what we know of Babu Pramada Kumar Basu from 13 years' residence in our midst as Professor of the Murari Chand College, we are constrained to think that he has not also shown anything like exceptional abilities in the discharge of his tutorial functions. Moreover, in view of the salary offered for the post, no one doubts for a moment that if the post were publicly advertised both in Bengal and Assam, the services of one of the best University men could be secured. Under the circumstances, does it not seem monstrous to the commonest mind that a man having a very indifferent career both in the University and as a Professor should suddenly be translated from the professorial chair of a private second grade college to fill the responsible Government post of an Inspector of Schools carrying a high salary with it? But in these days nothing seems absurd to official bureaucracy, and Heaven knows what more is reserved for us!

But this one post is simply the earnest of more to follow. We have in vain sought for anything like a sense of proportion in the appointments for the 19 posts of Deputy Inspectors. We believe we would not be far wrong if we say that, with a very few honourable exceptions—and among them certainly there are people who would discharge the duties to which they are called with interest to the people and with credit to themselves—the new Deputy Inspectors are a set of men who have little or no pretensions to University education. They are for the most part promoted from the position of Sub-Inspectors, many of whom began their career as lower grade teachers. The highest salary they could aspire to under the old arrangement was Rs. 75 and they entered the service fully knowing their future prospects. They could not therefore be said to be at all a dissatisfied lot, and nobody would have taken the Government of Mr. Fuller to task if the salary of these people were not suddenly doubled, and in some cases trebled, and they were not raised to a higher dignity at the expense of efficiency of the service.

The Government of India made the additional grant only with a view to strengthen the inspecting staff and thus to make it more efficient. But Mr. Fuller has beautifully succeeded to frustrate the object of the Government of India. Only one other post, namely, the post of Inspector for the Assam Valley, remains to be filled up, and after these appointments we would not be at all surprised if it be offered to a teacher of the lowest classes of an Entrance school.

We are quite at a loss to find out according to what principles the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner, Mr. Fuller, has appointed the Deputy Inspectors of Schools. His Honour neither followed University career, nor seniority, nor pay of the candidates. Babu Bidhu Bhusan Muzumdar, B. A., Second master, whose pay is Rs. 80, is promoted to the grade of Rs. 100; Babu Kali Narain Das, Sub-Inspector, whose pay is Rs. 75 and who is not a graduate, has been promoted to the grade of Rs. 150; Moulvi Wasil Ali, Sub-Inspector, who is not even matriculated and whose pay is Rs. 45 only, has been promoted to the grade of Rs. 125; Moulvi Azad Ali, Sub-Inspector, whose pay is Rs. 60 and who is superior to Moulvi Wasil Ali both in education and seniority, has been promoted to the grade of Rs. 100. Are these not serious blunders of the Assam Administration? We do not like to deal further with the individual qualities of the newly appointed Deputy Inspectors.

To err is human. Hon'ble Mr. Fuller has committed these serious errors for which, we hope and trust, a just and conscientious ruler like Mr. Fuller must be sorry.

We very humbly and respectfully represent these facts to our hon'ble ruler to reconsider and rectify his mistakes.

136. The same paper complains that a number of thefts are recently reported to have occurred in Sylhet town and its suburbs.

The same paper requests Government to inquire into the conduct of Babu Annada Charan Sen, Sub-Inspector of Police, Habiganj, who is said to be in the habit of arresting and harassing persons whom he has no legal authority to arrest.

The same paper reports that a theft was committed on the 10th April last at village Akhalia near Sylhet town at the house of one Adhar Chandra Das, whose ornaments of the value of Rs. 650 were stolen. When Adhar Chand

went to the thana to report the occurrence, he was induced to state the amount of his loss at less than Rs. 600 and not at the actual figure of Rs. 640 by the police asking him to put it at the lower figure as there was no chance of his recovering his lost property. The reason for this conduct on the part of the police was to avoid the trouble of having to undertake a careful inquiry into the case.

137. The same paper continues its allegations against the Postmaster of Bamoi [noticed in paragraph 141 of Report Allegations against a Post- master. on Native Papers for 1st April 1905]. Reference is made to the frequent absences of the

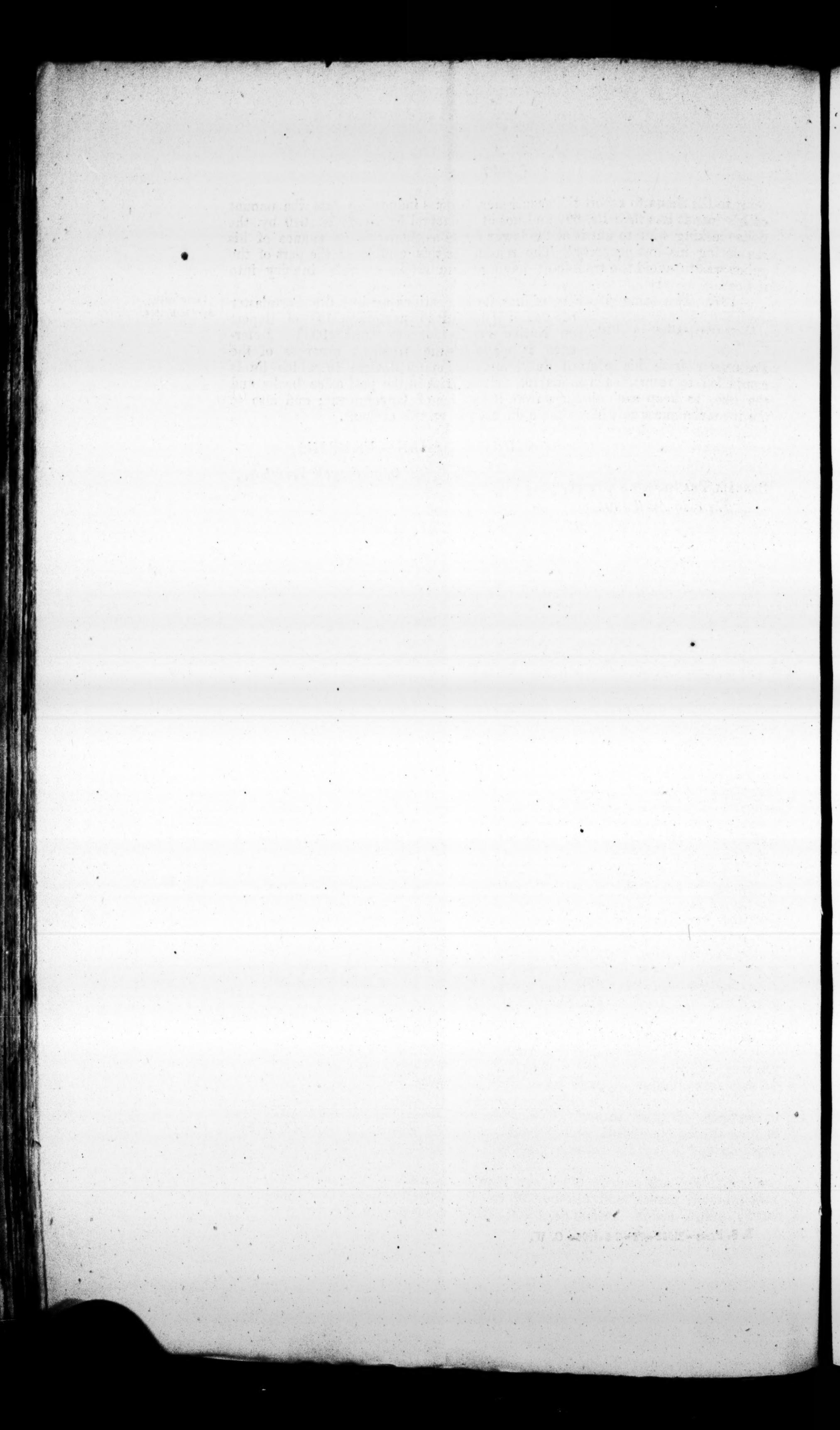
Postmaster from his post of duty, and the many devices to which he is compelled to resort, such as making false entries in the post office books and the like, to keep such absences from the notice of Government; and also to the inconveniences to which the public are put on this account.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 29th April 1905.

BIDHUBHUSHAN MUKERJEA,

Offg. Bengali Translator.

PARIDARSAK,
April 15th, 1904.



CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 17 of 1905.

REPORT (PART II)

ON

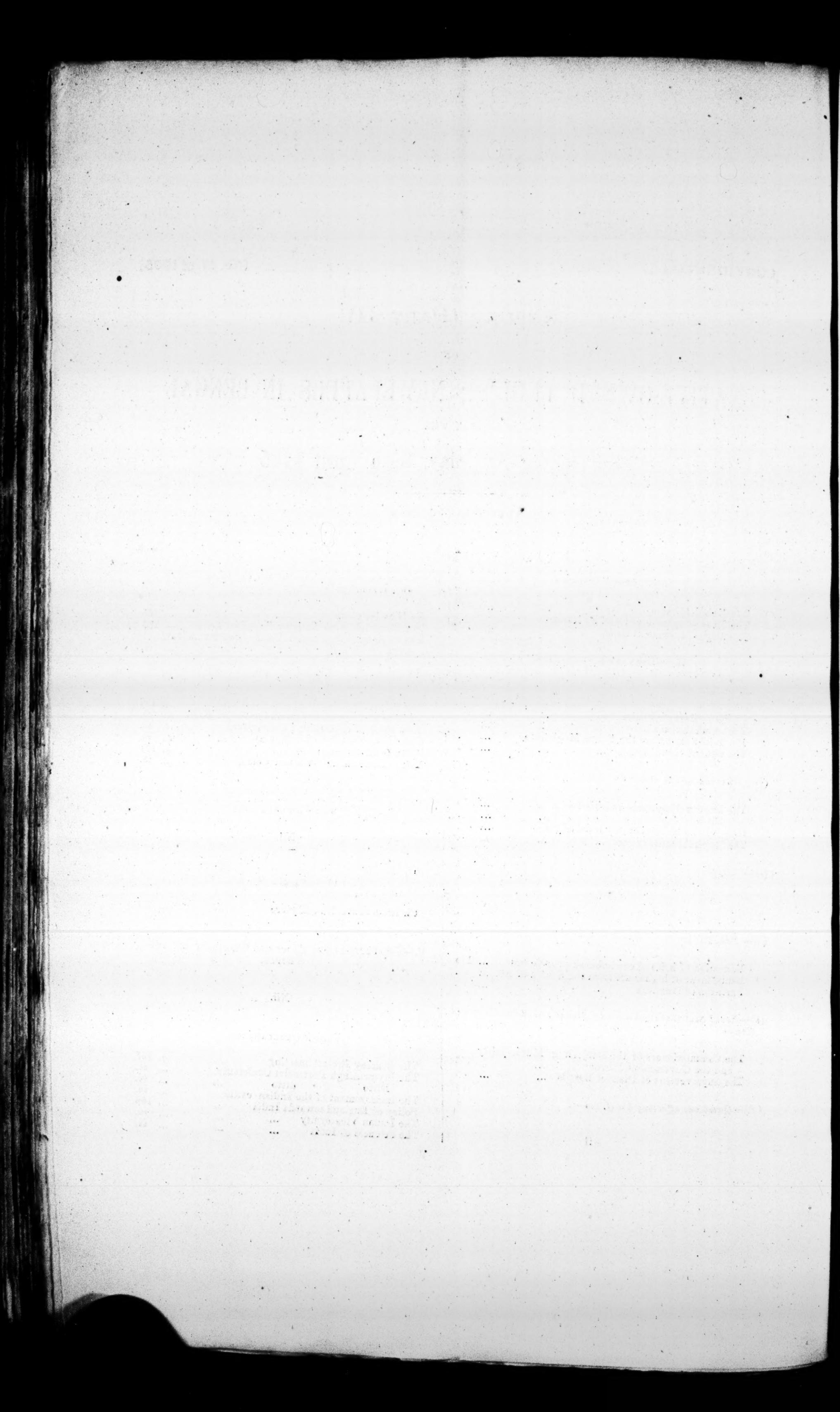
NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 29th April 1905.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.		PAGE.
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.		(g)—Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation—	
The Kabul Mission ...	153	Railway incivility ...	155
The Russo-Japanese war and its lessons ...	<i>ib.</i>	The Bengal-Nagpur Railway Provident Fund ...	156
The Anglo-Japanese alliance ..	<i>ib.</i>	The office of the District Traffic Superintendent, Gaya ...	<i>ib.</i>
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.		(h)—General—	
(a)—Police—		The Imperial Library ...	156
Thefts in Rampur Boalia ...	153	The Government of Bengal on the Native Press ...	<i>ib.</i>
The chaukidari tax ...	<i>ib.</i>	How the service is getting demoralized ...	<i>ib.</i>
Mr. Tahl Ram before the Police Magistrate ...	<i>ib.</i>	The Provincial Executive Service ...	<i>ib.</i>
The trial of Habu Bagdi ...	154	Babu Sakti Prasanna Sen ...	157
(b)—Working of the Courts—		The circular anent Divisional Commissioners ...	<i>ib.</i>
The Deputy Magistrate and his tailor ...	154	III.—LEGISLATION.	
Ditto ditto ...	<i>ib.</i>	Nil.	
Unsympathetic Magistrates and Judges ...	<i>ib.</i>	IV.—NATIVE STATES.	
The Rajshahi murder case ...	<i>ib.</i>	Christian converts in Mysore ...	157
(c)—Jails—		V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.	
Nil.		Nil.	
(d)—Education—		VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.	
Education of heirs of encumbered proprietors ...	155	The Bombay Protest meeting ...	157
Banishment of higher art from the School of Art ...	<i>ib.</i>	The Mymensingh Provincial Conference ...	<i>ib.</i>
Partition of language ...	<i>ib.</i>	Ditto ditto ...	<i>ib.</i>
(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—		The improvement of the Indian cattle ...	<i>ib.</i>
The Commissioners of the Darjeeling Municipality and the Government Pleader ...	155	Policy of England towards India ...	158
The improvement of District Boards ...	<i>ib.</i>	The Indian Viceroyalty ...	<i>ib.</i>
(f)—Questions affecting the Land—		The defences of India ...	<i>ib.</i>
Nil.			



I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

INDIAN NATION,
17th April 1905.

560. The *Indian Nation* expresses the opinion that the good results of the Kabul Mission like those of the Thibet Mission are not easy to see. The treaty concluded with the present Amir, which is very similar to that which existed with the late Amir, is no great advance and hardly worth all the sacrifice endured to obtain it. The only redeeming feature of both these infructuous enterprises is the heroic endurance of the parties concerned under extremely trying circumstances.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
18th April 1905.

The Kabul Mission. 561. The *Hindoo Patriot* contrasts the circumstances connected with Japan's success and Russia's reverses in the present Russo-Japanese war and war and points to the great results which have been achieved. The integrity of Japan and China

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are now secured, and the Russian "bogey" of an invasion of India has been laid at rest for ever. There is no longer any reason for allowing further increase of military expenditure, which going beyond all needs and proportion, has checked internal development and increased taxation. If the rulers see things in their proper light, India will so prosper and progress that in 30 years she will be capable of holding her own against an actual Russian invasion. The war has also shown that Asiatics, as nations, are to be reckoned with in future.

BENGALEE,
22nd April 1905.

562. The *Bengalee* advocates the formation of a permanent offensive and defensive alliance between England and Japan, as it will serve to secure India from a Russian invasion, fancied or real, and ensure permanent peace in the Far East. Russia may try to retrieve her humiliation in Manchuria by a descent on India, but Englishmen should no longer be in dread of the invincible power of Russian troops.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

BENGALEE
14th April 1905.

563. The Rajshahi (Rampur Boalia) correspondent of the *Bengalee* writes complaining that scarcely a night passes without a theft taking place in some quarter of the town. It is thought that a gang of thieves has been locally organised or that a foreign gang is paying the town a passing visit.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
21st April 1905.

Thefts in Rampur Boalia. 564. Reverting to the chaukidari tax in Bengal, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* reiterates the opinion it has over and over again expressed as to "the grossly oppressive character, of the tax" and its being "one of the cruelest of imposts ever devised by any civilized Government," as it affects every man and woman in the interior of Bengal, who has a hovel to live in, though they may be starving. Formerly the chaukidars were granted lands in exchange for their services, but the direct tax, collected in cash, even in times of distress, presses dreadfully upon the rural population. It is further contended that although they are supported by the people, these chaukidars are of no use to them, but are maintained for imperial works and serve as Government spies in villages. They never patrol at night or protect the people from thieves and burglars, and being, as a rule, selected from the dregs of society, they are often in league with the *budmashes*. The journal describes some of the harassing features of the tax, and urges that the regular police should be employed in villages, and the rural population be either exempted from such taxation, or allowed to use the proceeds for sanitary and other useful purposes.

NEW INDIA,
15th April 1905.

565. Referring to the case of Mr. Tahl Ram, *New India* considers it strange that the police, who appear to have made no efforts to discover the Muhammadan and Eurasian *goondas* who assaulted the Panjabi preacher, should have applied to the Presidency Magistrate to restrict his preaching and thereby shown their incapacity to offer adequate protection to innocent people against absolutely wanton and unprovoked outrages.

Mr. Tahl Ram before the Police
Magistrate.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
20th April 1905.

566. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* draws the attention of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to the case in which Habu Bagdi, a boy of sixteen, Ryana, Burdwan, was charged with having murdered his sister-in-law, a girl of six. The accused, though innocent and acquitted by the Judge, was subjected to the horror of a criminal prosecution for several months. It is hoped that the records of the case will be obtained to find out the party or parties responsible for harassing the boy.

BENGALEE,
14th April 1905.

567. The *Bengalee* writes that Mr. W. G. Shout, Deputy Magistrate, when transferred to Hooghly, brought down his Sonthali tailor, but the man's father being ill, he went to his country on leave, taking with him an advance of pay of Rs. 3 and a *duree* which he believed was given him by his master as *bakshish*. The *darzi* failing to return, Mr. Shout charged him under sections 381 and 417, Indian Penal Code, and obtained a warrant for his arrest. When he was brought down, Mr. Shout withdrew the charges and the man returned to his late master's service. A few days afterwards the tailor quietly left Mr. Shout's service again, and Mr. Shout again prosecuted him under the same sections and again the sapient Magistrate, Kumar G. N. Deb, issued a warrant for his arrest. The *Bengalee* is at a loss what to think of the Magistrates concerned and of the District Magistrate, Mr. Carey, who is supposed to control the work of his subordinates. When Mr. Carey himself breaks the law, is it surprising that a state of things has come to exist at Hooghly in which Magistrates do not hesitate to abuse their authority to satisfy their personal ends?

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
20th April 1905.

568. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* comments on the action of Mr. Shout, Deputy Magistrate of Hooghly, in having his tailor arrested a second time for the same offence for which he had previously proceeded against him and compromised the case. Mr. Shout's action produced the desired effect of making the man execute a bond to serve his master for one year, but the case against him is still pending. The journal condemns Sir Andrew Fraser for finding fault with the Press for bringing such official vagaries to his notice.

BENGALEE,
19th April 1905.

569. The *Bengalee* strongly condemns the unsympathetic attitude of Magistrates and Judges towards persons who have the misfortune to appear before them in the dock. During the hearing of the Rajshahi murder case Babu Tara Nath Chaudhuri, a highly respectable zamindar, was put up with other accused, although there was no evidence whatever against him. Being an old man of over 70 years, his Counsel asked to allow him to the Court be accommodated with a seat. This was refused and the poor man fainted away.

Another instance is that of Mr. Tahl Ram, who was refused a seat and forced to enter the prisoner's dock, although he was not an accused person and had come to Court to show cause.

BENGALEE,
20th April 1905.

570. The *Bengalee* draws the attention of Sir Andrew Fraser to the case of Babu Taranath Chowdhury, an aged zamindar of Natore in Rajshahi, who was subjected to all manner of indignities and made the victim of a cruel and wanton persecution at the instigation of his enemies. The Sessions Judge of Rajshahi declined to try the case, and the District Magistrate also stated that there was no legal evidence against the man. It is hoped that the Government will enquire into the circumstances which led to the commitment, and, following the precedent of the Rolt case, award ample reparation to this innocent victim of a hateful conspiracy.

(d)—Education.

571. The *Bengalee* approves of the suggestion to authorize the compulsory education of heirs of encumbered proprietors to enable them to properly manage their estates when released to them. It, however, hopes that any amendment of the Act will be confined to this object, and that no other amendments will be made to remove or weaken existing safeguards against such estates passing into the possession of capitalists.

BENGALEE,
20th April 1905.

572. The *Bengalee* condemns the present policy of Government, which discourages the study of higher art and seeks to reduce the School of Art to a workshop. Scholarship holders have to refund all the money they

BENGALEE,
22nd April 1905.

Banishment of higher art from the School of Art. have drawn, the moment they elect to study higher art, and free-ship holders are required to pay schooling fees from the day they joined the school if they enter the Second Division in which the higher branches of art are taught. It is also complained that teachers as well as the school bearers are frequently employed in doing the private work of the Principal or his wife, with the result that many of the students have already been obliged to leave the school. The works of second-class European artists have been sold, but no attempt appears to have been made to replace them by first-class pictures.

573. The *Weekly Chronicle* deprecates the scheme for writing text-books for primary schools in English and then translating them into the various dialects of the Bengali language, as, if carried out, it will result in parents withdrawing their boys from such schools. For the preparation of the text-books in Assam the journal suggests their being first written in Bengali or Assamese and then translated, their translations being placed before Government for approval. It is also hoped that existing text-books will be fully utilised, but books on scientific subjects may first be written in English and then rendered in the vernacular, as such works are scarce in Bengali.

WEEKLY CHRONICLE,
18th April 1905.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

574. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is struck by the humour of the refusal of the Municipal Commissioners of Darjeeling to grant Mr. Mohendra Nath Banerji, the Government Pleader, compensation for the damage to his wife's rickshaw caused by a collision with a conservancy cart, while at the same meeting the same Commissioners voted an increase of Rs. 100 as personal allowance to Mr. Moller, the Vice-Chairman. The journal advises the Government Pleader to seek redress in a Court of justice and fight out the case on principle. If all rate-payers who had a grievance sought redress in a Court of law, there would be less despotism in the Municipality.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
17th April 1905.

The improvement of District Boards. 575. While thanking Government for endeavouring to improve the financial position of District Boards, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* points out that only a partial restitution will be made of the Road Cess money which

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
21st April 1905.

the Government had misappropriated. The injustice of fixing a lump sum as contribution towards the cost of the collection charges was not admitted till 1899, when Mr. Baker agreed to act up to the principle laid down in 1877-78, but refrained from restoring a pice of the money which had been meanwhile appropriated. The contention that a portion of the salaries of the Collector, the Commissioner, and Members of the Revenue Board should be paid from the Fund is declared to be preposterous, seeing that the members of District Boards and mufassal Municipalities do not charge for their services.

(g)—Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.

576. The Bankipur correspondent of the *Hindoo Patriot* complains that Railway incivility. cases of impoliteness, rudeness, and extortion on the part of railway subordinates in many sections of the East Indian Railway line are gradually becoming very frequent. Recently

HINDOO PATRIOT,
19th April 1905.

a Eurasian ticket-collector and the Station-Master of Bankipore assaulted Babu Dwijendra Nath Bose, Assistant Secretary to the Indian National Congress. Two other instances are quoted of guards behaving insolently towards respectable native passengers, one of whom had complained that the compartment was very dirty, while the other enquired whether the train would stop at a particular station.

BENGALEE,
20th April 1905.

577. An employé of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway writes to the *Bengalee* complaining of the hardship entailed by neither bonus nor interest being granted for money deposited in the Provident Fund, unless the depositor serves the Company for full ten years. Another unreasonable rule is that the system is not extended to the employés of the construction work, and their service in that Department does not count when they are transferred to the open line.

KAYASTHA MESSEN-

GER,

17th April 1905.

The Bengal-Nagpur Railway Provident Fund. 578. The *Kayastha Messenger* complains that Mr. Higgman, the District Traffic Superintendent at Gaya, makes the poor ill-paid clerks in his office work for 8½ hours a day, from 9.30 A.M. to 6 P.M. The clerks have

The office of the District Traffic Superintendent, Gaya. on various occasions had reason to complain against the treatment they receive from their superiors, and it is hoped that their latest grievance will be removed.

(h)—General.

BENGALEE,
14th April 1905.

579. The *Bengalee* refers to the incident which occurred at the Imperial Library on the 9th, when an Indian Barrister-at-Law was refused by the *durwan* shelter in the vesti-

bule, until the Library was opened, and was informed by the Superintendent, to whom he complained of the *durwan*'s conduct, that it was necessary to exclude the public until the arrival of the men in charge, in order to prevent theft of or damage to books. Mr. Macfarlane's reply was of a kind that was calculated to add insult to injury, implying that gentlemen are in the habit of stealing or mutilating books! The *Bengalee* thinks that a waiting-room should be set apart for early visitors.

BENGALEE,
19th April 1905.

580. Referring to the comments of the Government in their annual administration report, with regard to the character of native journalism in Bengal, the *Bengalee* emphatically protests against the aspersion that

The Government of Bengal on the Native Press. the native papers, in order to increase their circulation, fill their columns with sensational and unsavoury reports, which they invent when true cases are not forthcoming. No one acquainted with the Native Press will subscribe to this wholly imaginary statement.

AMRITA BASAR
PATRIKA,
19th April 1905.

581. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* refers to the demoralizing effect produced on the service by Sir Andrew Fraser's neglect to notice the high-handed acts of Mr. Carey. This is clearly shown by the recent conduct of

How the service is getting demoralized. Mr. Shout towards a poor tailor. The impression is spreading that a dispute between a European and an Indian is bound to result disastrously for the latter, and this is confirmed by the case of the Rajput woman in Raniganj, who was sentenced to a fine of Rs. 15 or two weeks' imprisonment for resisting with a chopper the unwarrantable intrusion of a European Police Sergeant into her house. The Magistrate declared that the Sergeant was not justified in going to the house, but took no notice of his conduct.

BENGALEE,
20th April 1905.

582. A member of the Provincial Executive Service, writing to the *Bengalee* on the subject of the scheme for increasing the cadre of the service, questions the motives which have prompted the Government to keep the service and the general public in the dark. The Provincial Executive performs the most onerous and responsible duties of executive and criminal government, and the mere enlarging of the lower grades will prove to be nothing short of a departmental disaster. A proportionate increase in all grades which will neither accelerate nor retard promotion is also deprecated, and the writer advocates an increase in the grades from Rs. 500 upwards and an addition of two further grades on Rs. 900 and Rs. 1,000.

583. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* draws the attention of His Excellency the Viceroy to the case of Babu Sakti Prasanna Babu Sakti Prasanna Sen.

Sen, an Auditor under the Deputy Comptroller, Post Office, Bengal Circle, who has been refused permission by the Comptroller-General, India, to appear at the Subordinate Civil Accounts Examination, without first passing the Postal Subordinate Examination. No such restrictions are laid down in the Civil Account Code on a Post Office Account clerk desiring to qualify himself as clerk of a Civil Account office. On appearing at the Postal Account Examination Sakti Babu passed creditably in accounts, but failed to secure pass marks in *précis*-writing and letter-drafting. He has not been granted a re-examination in the latter subject, although he appears to have done satisfactorily.

AMRITA BASAR
PATRIKA,
21st April 1905.

584. Commenting on the Bengal Government circular defining the authority and position of Divisional Commissioners.

The circular anent Divisional Commissioners. The *Bengalee* signifies its approval of the first-half of the circular, but considers that the latter part enables the Commissioners to influence District Judges, even in respect of their judicial work, to an extent which must necessarily prove prejudicial to the public interest. It will intensify the evil consequences, and prevent ugly disclosures such as were made by Mr. Pennell.

BENGALEE,
22nd April 1905.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

585. The *Indian Nation* is surprised at the introduction in Mysore of a law that Hindus embracing Christianity are not Christian converts in Mysore. to be disqualified from inheriting their ancestors' property. This innovation is contrary to the first principles of Hindu law, and that it should be thought of in a Hindu State gives rise to much wonderment.

INDIAN NATION,
17th April 1905.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

586. Commenting on Mr. Gokuldass Rahandas Parekh's speech at the Bombay Protest meeting, the *Bengalee* writes that The Bombay Protest meeting. the effects of Lord Curzon's policy may not be appreciated to the fullest extent during His Excellency's administration, but his successors will have to strain their utmost to undo the mischief committed by him. If one were to sum up the achievements of His Excellency in India, one could not do so better than say that Lord Curzon found a country contented and left it discontented; found the people of India believers in the *bona fide* character of British rule and destroyed their belief.

BENGALEE,
14th April 1905.

587. The *Indian Mirror* is pleased to find that general and popular interest is being taken in the forthcoming Provincial Conference, which promises to be a great success. Itinerant bards are going round the district singing recitative poems, giving the history, objects, and necessity of conferences and congresses, while thousands of printed pamphlets are being widely distributed among the people. It would be more advantageous if the proceedings were conducted in the vernacular, as the people would then understand and take an active part in matters which concern their welfare most intimately. A brief summary of the speeches, together with the resolutions, should be published in the English papers, to enable the rulers and the people of other Provinces to understand the views of the Conference on the subjects under discussion. The journal suggests that the following matters be dealt with:—*Dharma golas*, the deterioration of cattle, the removal of water-scarcity, and the necessity and importance of scientific agricultural education. Some means for self-help and national advancement should also be devised and worked throughout the year.

INDIAN MIRROR,
18th April 1905.

588. The *Bengalee* eulogises the leaders of the Mymensingh Conference for their determination to make the masses join them in this political gathering. Viceroys like *Ibid.*

BENGALEE,
19th April 1905.

Lord Curzon help to unite the whole community in the determination to obtain, by constitutional means, the fulfilment of the promises contained in the Queen's Proclamation.

INDIAN MIRROR,
19th April 1905.

589. The *Indian Mirror* draws the attention of Government to the necessity for devising some simple means for the improvement of the breed of cattle, which is fast deteriorating in India. It suggests that common

pasture grounds should be set apart in every village, and that Brahmini bulls which are given their liberty merely for breeding purposes, should not be seized by local authorities and employed to draw carts, etc. The rules with regard to public pounds should also be relaxed to enable people to let their cattle loose for pasture and exercise.

The Bombay Government has adopted measures in this respect, and it is hoped that the other Provincial Governments will follow suit.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
19th April 1905.

590. The policy of England towards India, says the *Hindoo Patriot*, has always been that of draining India to its utmost, in spite of the fact that the members of the English Parliament are well aware of the miseries and

poverty of the people. All the promises to govern India for the benefit of the Indians have been regarded by politicians as political quibbles and hypocrisies. It should, however, be remembered that the Russo-Japanese war is not without its effect on Indian minds, and that the work of repression will only deepen that effect and cause the people to turn like the proverbial worm. The journal hopes that the present sanguinary war will lead some sober-minded and sympathetic men like Burke, Devonshire, Ripon, and Churchill to arise in England and bring relief to the Indian slaves.

EAST,
16th April 1905.

591. The *East* condemns the manner in which Indian leaders in the Press write about Lord Curzon, whose position as Viceroy and Governor-General is peculiarly sacred in India, where the visible representative of the Throne should be regarded with a feeling of genuine loyalty.

EAST,
16th April 1905.

592. A writer in the same journal expresses doubts as to the soundness of the defences of India and urges the Government to earnestly consider the matter and have the frontiers thoroughly defended. The situation of Calcutta and the expansion of trade on the shores of the Bay of Bengal imperatively demand great forts at some strategic points.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENL.
OF POLICE, L. P.
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,
The 29th April 1905.

F. C. DALY,
Asst. to the Inspr.-Genl. of Police, L. P.